AUSTRALIAN & BRITISH

SOCCER

VOL. 22 No. 1063 – TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 27, 2001

● REGISTERED BY AUSTRALIAN POST
● PUBLICATIONS No. NBQ5726

WEEKLY

$3.60
GST INCLUSIVE

Again We Miss World Cup Bus

AUSTRALIA's delirious driving dream over the past four years to make it to our second only World Cup Finals, was yesterday, (Monday), morning, mercilessly shattered by South America's fifth best qualifying nation Uruguay.

Inside the jammed packed and historic Centenario Stadium, in Montevideo, Australia's Road to the World Cup Finals next year, came to a grinding halt.

In this fiercely contested second leg 'eliminator', the slick Uruguayans with a merciless technical display, largely dominated precious possession. This single factor significantly enabled the South Americans to cruelly thrash Australia 3-0 and prematurely bring down the final curtain on our seventh World Cup campaign.

That elusive 'away' goal that Australia had desperately wanted to score to hopefully solidify our qualification, ultimately would have counted for nothing.

By John Economos

Australia's 1974 side now still remains firmly entrenched as our sole squad to have successfully made the World Cup Finals.

The 13th minute yesterday morning certainly proved unlucky for Australia. Uruguay's 29 year old lethal striker Dario Silva, despite having central marker Shaun Murphy tightly saddled across his left hip, was still able to draw first blood with a low right footed angled drive into the far bottom left corner of the target.

Second half substitute Ricardo Morales from the domestic Club Nacional, rattled in a brilliant brace, (69th and 89th), to firmly drive the final nail into Australia's coffin.

Yesterday's battleground was encased within the bowels of Uruguay's historic and spacious Centenario Stadium, the exact same sacred arena on which the very first World Cup Final gladiators fiercely fought 71 years ago.

On that occasion Uruguay again were victors, defeating the highly favoured Argentina by 4-2 to emboss that little South American nation's name in World Cup records, forever.

Australia has once again 'missed the bus', and has been left to ponder, plan and rebuild for 'Germany 2006'.

Next year's World Cup draw is expected to be conducted in four days by FIFA at one of the Korean host Cities, Pusan.

RICARDO MORALES: Uruguay's heroic scorer of a brilliant brace.

HISTORIC WORLD CUP MEMORIES: This luxurious Mercedes Benz Coach ferried Australia's 1974 team in West Germany, and still remains our only Squad to have ever made it to a World Cup Finals tournament. This Australia team was based in Hamburg.

Tony Vidmar: Inconsolable after Australia's heart-wrenching 3-0 loss to Uruguay yesterday morning.

Turned to Pages 3, 8, 16 & 17 for comprehensive reports, reactions and exclusive pictures of Australia's 2002 World Cup Campaign

AUSTRALIAN AND BRITISH
SOCCER
WEEKLY

Issue No. 1063
"Published every Tuesday by
F.L. Press
5-13 Garners Ave.,
Marrickville NSW 2204

TELEPHONE
(editorial and general enquiries)
Tel: (02) 9562 0559
or
Tel: (02) 9562 0565

(advertising)
John Economos

Tel: (02) 9562 0559

E-MAIL
(editorial, advertising and general enquiries)
soccerweekly@hotmail.com
ABSW's new E-mail:
soccer@foreignlanguage.com.au

FACSIMILE
(editorial, advertising and general enquiries)
(02) 9550 9332 or (02) 9564 1224

MAILING ADDRESS
P.O. Box 155 Marrickville NSW 1475

SUBSCRIPTIONS
Sylvia Marinos
Phone: (02) 9562 0575
Australia: $195 (GST incl.)
Overseas: $255 (GST incl.)

PRODUCTION EDITOR
Emma Nwaneri

CHIEF WRITER
John Economos

STAFF WRITER
Arvind Hickman

LAYOUT/TYPESETTING
Mary Quartly, Alamita Vea

CORRESPONDENTS
Bert van Bedaf (Victoria Editor)
Alan Clarke (Melbourne)
Allan Crisp (Adelaide)
Glenn Davis (Brisbane)
Otto Bader (Wollongong)
Richard Kreider (Perth)
Graham Cooke (Canberra)
Joe Russo (Sydney)
Roy Hay (Victoria)
Mark Stavroulakis (Sydney)
SCANNING
Bill Hawthorne, Alex Siafakos
FILM PLANNING
Nick Philips
PHOTOGRAPHY
Allsport

DISTRIBUTION
NSW/ACT:
FLP Pty Ltd. 5-13 Garners Ave,
Marrickville NSW 2204
Tel: (02) 9562 0500

VICTORIA:
FLP Pty Ltd. 72-78 Gipps Street,
Collingwood Vic 3066
Tel: (03) 9486 9522
Tel: (03) 9486 9858

QUEENSLAND:
Queensland Newspapers
Campbell St, Bowden Hills Qld. 4006
Tel: (07) 3252 6011

SOUTH AUSTRALIA:
Advertiser Newspapers Ltd.
Waymouth St, Adelaide SA 5000
Tel: (08) 8218 9329

WESTERN AUSTRALIA:
Pan Hellenic Emporium,
67 James Street, Perth WA 6000
Tel: (08) 9328-4779
Recommended and maximum price.
$3.60
*All material appearing in *Australian and British Soccer Weekly* is copyright and reproduction in any form whatsoever is expressly forbidden without the written permission of the publisher. The publisher accepts no responsibility for unsolicited manuscripts, illustrations or photographic material.
Deadline for contributions, articles and advertising is 3 days PRIOR to issue date.

Arrogant Recoba rubbishes Australia

Alvaro Recoba: "Australia are not a great team."

Uruguayan star, Alvaro Recoba was throughout last week, confident his team can emerge triumphant from yesterday's World Cup play-off second leg against Australia in Montevideo.

"They (Australia) are not a great team and they showed it.

Even if we lost in Australia we are still a team that can qualify," Recoba told *El Pais* newspaper.

Australia won the first leg of the play-off 1-0 ahead of the crucial second leg in Montevideo at the Centenario Stadium, yesterday morning.

The national press were all week-long calling yesterday, 'The day of revenge' and that was also the spirit throughout the country.

"I think if it was the opposite we would be worried just as they are now," Inter striker, Recoba said.

Uruguay manager Victor Pua took the players away from the busy capital to Punta del Este, 150 kilometres from Montevideo, where the national team have their training base.

"We are a few goals away from qualifying for the World Cup," the national manager told the media.

"One goal is a difference but is not that much, and we can achieve our objective," said Pua.

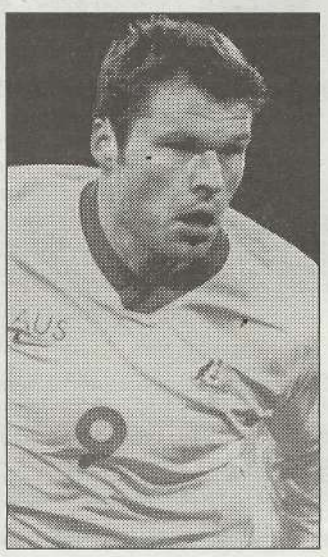
Viduka-phobia reigns at Leeds

The fear of Mark Viduka appears to be the beginning of wisdom at English premeirship side, Leeds United.

Stand-in strikers, Robbie Keane and Alan Smith had two games to put Leeds' season back on track , though they both seem to believe their partnership is living on borrowed time.

After penultimate weekend's maiden league defeat at Sunderland, Keane and Smith were quick to make their point to manager David O'Leary before Mark Viduka returns this week from World Cup duty with Australia against Uruguay.

Smith scored the winner in Zurich last week as Leeds beat the Swiss side, Grasshopper of Zurich 2-1 but along with Keane he still reluctantly admitted Viduka will remain first choice, whatever the duo contribute before his return.



Mark Viduka

"We haven't played together all season. I think Sunderland game was the first chance we have had," said Keane.

"I know the gaffer has said he is not sure whether it would work but I am not concerned and neither is Smithy.

"We are both professionals and good friends who want to do well for each other and the team. We know what we are capable of doing so it is not a problem.

"We have a chance now and hopefully we can prove that the two of us can play together.

"There is nothing we can do about the fact that Mark Viduka plays in every game, leaving us fighting for the other place. That is not my decision or Smithy's, it's the gaffer's choice and we must get on with it.

"When we get a chance like now, we have to prove we are good enough so this is a great opportunity for us."

Danny Tiatto (left): Returning to the Manchester City fold after World Cup fiasco.

MAN CITY GAINS IN TIATTO MIX-UP

Midfielder Danny Tiatto was in the starting line up for his English side, Manchester City on Saturday against Rotherham after returning from his aborted trip to Australia.

Manchester City were blameless in the mix-up which led to Tiatto coming half way round the World only to be told he was suspended for the Socceroos' two World Cup games against Uruguay.

Manchester manager, Kevin Keegan was naturally delighted to have him back.

"Danny is back after Australia thought that the friendly games which they played would have counted towards his three match ban. We will have to make a plus out of something which is a minus."

"We have to assume that Australia know what they are doing. We are blameless in this but now that it is happened we will put checks in so that it doesn't happen again. Having happened once, it should not be allowed to happen again."

"Obviously the player thought he could play and Australia thought he could play. You have to look at the rules because if I played a suspended player then we would be docked points. So when you are picking your squad then you have to put checks in place, but it is not our responsibility to do it for internationals."

Leaving aside the awful mix up it has been a bitter blow for Danny Tiatto who had been so focussed on the the two play off games which could seal his country's presence at the World Cup Finals for only the second time.

"I feel sorry for everybody in this, for Australia because it can't be easy for them having made this mistake. We have suffered as we missed him for a game which we didn't need to and I feel sorry for Danny himself too."

"The good news is he can come and play for us. I hope Australia get there for his sake because, like all players, he wants to play on a World Cup stage. We regret it has happened but now we have to make the best of it."

ECLIPSE SURPRISE WOMEN'S NSL

By Graham Cooke

It's early days, but Canberra Eclipse are proving to be the surprise team of the Women's National Soccer League.

Last season the club finished firmly at the foot of the competition, with just one point from the entire campaign.

This time round they were unbeaten after three games with wins against the Adelaide Sensation and Victoria Vision, and a draw with the reigning champions, Queensland Sting.

Coach Clive Mackillop says the secret of the Eclipse's success lies in a solid defence, which before last weekend's round of games had conceded just one goal – and that a penalty.

"We've been able to back that up with a bit more penetration up front – we are generally a better side than last season," he said.

There has been only one major addition, veteran defender Bridgette Starr from NSW Sapphires. But Mackillop says everyone is working harder and believing in themselves.

"We have the experience with Bridgette, Sacha Wainwright and Sue Read, right through to some of the juniors who were with the academy squad last year," he said. "We are a good blend.

"This really showed against Queensland when there was genuine disappointment that we had got only the draw when last year we would have been delighted at that result.

"Expectations are high and, yes, I do thing it's possible for a team to go from bottom to top in one season."

Order Now as a Christmas Gift

ABSW Subscription Application Form

Get *ABSW* delivered to your doorstep every week. For convenience, mail your cheques payable to: *ABSW*, in Australia $195 (including GST), Overseas subscriptions $255 (including GST), P.O. Box 155, Marrickville. NSW. 1475.

AUSTRALIAN & BRITISH SOCCER WEEKLY

P.S. Fill out the coupon below in block letters.
Name: . . . . . .
Address: . . . . . .
Suburb: . . . . . State: . . . . . P/code: . . . . . .

Dark clouds trail World Cup exit

Australia's painful ouster from the World Cup finals is raising serious fears about the domestic future of the game in the four years to the next qualification phase.

Uruguay claimed the 32nd and final berth in next summer's World Cup finals in Montevideo yesterday morning with a 3-0 win over the Socceroos.

Governing-body, Soccer Australia were hoping qualification would help solve an embarrasing indebtedness, rumoured to be about A$1.7 million but with the potential lifeline to the World Cup finals now gone, the avenue for serious money-making games has disappeared — until at least 2005.

Australia have not been to the World Cup finals since 1974 and the current squad was tipped as the best the country had produced under coach Frank Farina.

"It's just so sad, sad for the game, sad for the fans ... and most of all sad for the boys," said former Socceroo Craig Foster yesterday, moments after the game in Montevideo.

"It's a wound that doesn't heal."

Ex- Socceroo Robbie Slater agreed that the loss would damage the game's progress in the country.

"It is very hard to talk about, it's hard to take," he said.

"Certainly it is not a forward step, (but) the game will survive."

Paul Okon: Another failed World Cup campaign.

Slater lamented Australia's difficult qualifying route to the finals where it had to win a home and way series with the fifth-placed South American team after emerging Oceania champions earlier in the year.

"Our qualifying route comes down to two games and I don't think that's fair," Slater said.

Ex- Socceroo captain Charlie Yankos said the Uruguayans deserved credit for the win.

"They went out and controlled the game and as soon as they scored that second goal they just closed shop, and that was it, we weren't going to get in at all."

The National Soccer League is already weakened by the loss of well over 100 players to overseas clubs, and worsened by the growing exodus of many of the nation's promising juniors to European clubs.

Several NSL clubs have long since gone to the wall financially over the last year, and this latest setback may just about be the last straw for a game that has forever played second-fiddle to its more-illustrious rivals such as Aussie Rules, rugby and cricket.

INTER LIONS
SOCCER CLUB (Inc) — CONCORD
NSWSF SELECTION TRIALS — SEASON 2002
Join Us Now!!!!
FREE REGO
Womens
State League – U19's & 1st Grade 2.30pm
Mens
Federation – Div 3 – 1st & Res Grade 4.30pm
SUNDAYS – 2/12, 9/12, 16/12
Greenlees Park, Ian Parade — Concord
All Players Selected Will Receive
Tracksuit Jacket, Bag, Jersey, Socks, Shorts
Contact For Enquiries
Larry Musolino ✆ 0412 500 096

TEAM MAKES EARLY HOMECOMING

After missing out on the final place at the 2002 FIFA World Cup Finals, the Australian national team returns home this morning.

While the majority of the squad will fly directly to their respective overseas clubs, a number of the players will be flying into Sydney

The team will touch down at Sydney International airport, by 8.00am Tuesday morning, abroad QANTAS flight QF 116. Soccer Australia top executives Nick Greiner, Ian Knop, Greg Woods as well as coaches Frank Farina and Graham Arnold along with the team's support staff will lead the team back home.

Europe-based players Paul Okon, Mark Schwarzer, Clayton Zane are some of the prominent players returning to Sydney with the squad.

A media conference at the airport is scheduled for 8.30am at the Airport's Media Centre, Arrivals Level, Northern End of Terminal.

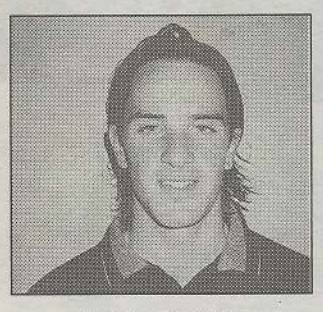
Socceroo Coach Frank Farina, team captain, Paul Okon, Goalkeeper Mark Schwarzer and Soccer Australia Chairman Ian Knop are expected at the conference.

BANKSTOWN CITY WILDCATS
SOCCER FOOTBALL CLUB
* * SELECTION TRIALS * *
YOUTH LEAGUE 2002
PLAYERS WANTED
Under 12's - Girls
Under 14's - Girls
Under 16's - Girls
NSW YOUTH LEAGUE - GIRLS COMPETITION 2002 SEASON
FOR FURTHER INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT:
FIONA SMITH: 0411-033-310

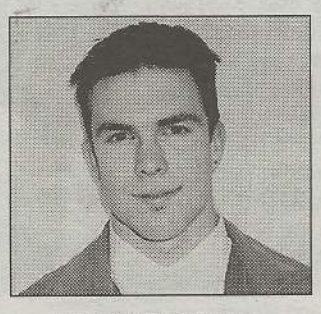
MARCONI STALLIONS VS NEWCASTLE UTD
MARCONI STALLIONS
Saturday, December 1
Newcastle United
FOR MORE INFO AND TICKET ENQUIRIES PHONE 9823 2222
MARCONI STADIUM
Mateh Day Sponsor Fairfield Advance
KICK OFF 7PM
BE A PART OF THE ACTION AND SEE THE STARS UNDER THE STARS
YOUTH LEAGUE MATCH AT 4.30PM ● GATES OPEN 4PM
WWW.MARCONIFC.COM.AU
TICKETS AVAILABLE AT TICKETEK, OR AT THE GATE. SEE YOU THERE.

Manager: Lee Sterrey

Michael Turnbull



Angelo Costanzo



Michael Beauchamp

Brendan Renaud

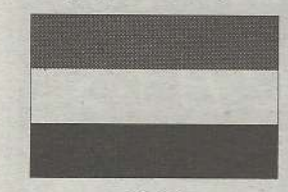
Dominic Longo

Proudly Sponsored by BRESCIA FURNITURE

The Good Oil ... The Good Oil

WHO are some of the other notable, giant and traditional powers of Soccer that won't be competing at the World Cup Finals besides Australia, next year in Japan/ Korea?

Would you believe the illustrious names of countries such as Colombia, the Czech Republic, Holland, Hungary and Norway?



●●●●

FOR years the Media has with monotonous regularity ignored Australian Soccer, that is, until last week.

Almost without exception, every newspaper, television and radio networks carried front page lead stories on our World Cup team over in Uruguay.

But why?

Was it because the general print and electronic media now had come in support of Soccer and had started to rate it?

Far from it.

FRANK FARINA: Australia's World Cup Manager.

What then really ignited the media's whole saturation coverage?

Soccer violence. That's what.

And with it all followed the almost endless and massively exaggerated hostilities committed on our players.

The so-called 'violence' that the Australian World Cup squad was confronted with on arrival at the Montevideo airport, was hugely beaten up.

One hyped up report that rocketted into Australia from Montevideo, stated that hundreds of hostile Uruguayan fans terrorised the Australian World Cup team.

Well of course there weren't 'hundreds of hostile supporters' there in the first place.

In fact it was a small group, (less than 20), of extremely loud, fanatical, Uruguayan supporters.

No Australian player was punched or kicked as another report hinted.

The ugliest incident, was the definite spitting on national coach Frank Farina, executed by a single young, yobbo.

Back in Australia we were bombarded over the next 72 hours with the 'violence' at Montevideo airport.

Local, (in fact heaps of non-Soccer), journos here, instantly jumped on the bandwagon and hastily did rewrites upon rewrites and 'lift offs' of 'ugly scenes' over in Montevideo.

Journos from Rugby League, Cricket, even one highly cynical writer from Tennis, came out of the woodwork and 'bought into the spiked up fracas'.

Sure there was yelling and screaming that targetted our players at the Arrivals' terminal.

But physical, or attempted physical violent attacks, there were none.

Then we were hit by the ludicrous threats dished out by Soccer Australia, that FIFA should shift the match right out of Montevideo, plus frantic demands for heavily armed security.

"The Indians were racing down the mountains and it was time to quickly circle the wagons."

All sheer crap.

Sure, all Uruguayans are very passionate supporters, just like EVERY other single South American supporters.

Hostile? Certainly not.

But passionate, a Big Yes.

Aren't supporters of Liverpool, Chelsea, Leeds or Man United the same?

To label Uruguayans as 'animals' was all too over the top.

Even national coach Frank Farina well-understood the 'support-climate', and even expected this very vocal abuse that hit his squad.

The only single incident that was definitely unforgivable, was the spitting on Farina by a young hooligan who was actually caught on camera.

But the camera was not the only thing that caught the lout.

No sooner had the young lout spat at Farina, he himself was instantly counter-attacked by a hulky member of the Uruguayan media, who promptly spun round and smacked him with a right cross to the chops for his filthy deed.

No, you can't label three million Uruguayans as 'animals'.

On November 29th 1997 at the M.C.G, a lunatic jumped out of the crowd to tear down the nets in the match against Iran.

Did that warrant or equate to labelling 19 million Australians as all being lunatics or yobbos?

How many times have we seen some galoot 'streaker' at Test Cricket matches, scream totally naked across the pitch in front of packed grounds.

Are all Australians then assumed to be members of nudist colonies?

If, (and it's a Big If), the Australian sporting media can't genuinely write and accurately report on Soccer, then don't.

Stick to League, Cricket and even Tennis, because you only want to 'climb' into Soccer to bash it and keep it well down the ladder of Australian Sports.

Our administrators can do that on their very own, without your assistance.

End of story.

●●●●

ZORAN MATIC, one of Australia's most successful coaches, yesterday lamented over Australia's loss: "It's easy to talk after the event.

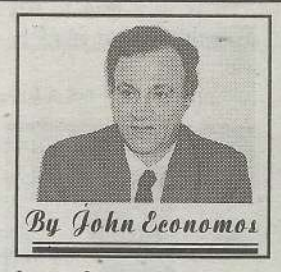
"Our game has always been ignored here in Australia by the masses and the media.

"Overall, for what we invest in the code, we have over- achieved.

"We have always been ignored and all I can say is that it is again now another sad day for Australia.

"We don't look after ourselves.

"Anyhow they, (Uruguay), were on the day, unfortunately, much better than us.



By John Economos

"This loss will just knock more air out of our game and will give the cynics more to knock us.

"All we need is a fair space under the Sun to operate," ended the philosophical, but saddened Matic.

●●●●

PETER RASKOPOULOS, Olympic Sharks' General manager, immediately after Australia's 3-0 World Cup qualifier loss yesterday morning, reflected:

"Of course it was most disappointing but to be honest the best team, (Uruguay), won.

PETER RASKOPOULOS: Olympic's General Manager.

"Now about Frank Farina's future, we should all get right behind him and he should stay as Australia's Manager.

"He did everything right and could not be faulted for any of his tactics," stressed the former Australian World Youth captain.

Rasko went on to add: "I thought that Australia's best performers were Craig Moore and Tony Vidmar. Both did very well. But what a player that Recoba from Inter Milan really is," ended Raskopoulos.

●●●●

NED ZELIC, the former talented Australian sweeper or midfield-playmaker, clearly stated once again from Germany to the Sydney media late last week, that his self-imposed international exile was still very much in force.

He made it clear that he will never again make himself available to play for Australia.

What a great shame for both player and nation.

Zelic stepped into the international arena as a teenaged sweeper with Eddie Thomson's Australian senior team that did battle in Sydney in 1991 against England.

He again starred for Australia in the 1992 Barcelona Games and played at central midfield on that most forgettable night World Cup Qualifier against Iran at the M.C.G. on November 29th 1997 under Terry Venables.

Zelic who walked out of an Australian training camp two years ago when informed by new national coach Frank Farina he was going to be dropped for a match against Brazil, again last week underlined to '*The Australian*' newspaper: "I'm not mercenary, but as a professional footballer, Soccer Australia doesn't compensate players for the loss of wages and match bonuses playing first team football in Europe."

NED ZELIC: Will never again play for Australia.

Ned, isn't that what being mercenary is all about?

●●●●

SOUTH MELBOURNE SOCCER CLUB showed great entrepreneurial sense yesterday (Monday) morning when it elected to open the doors to its Social Club within the Bob Jane Stadium for its supporters.

The Club's management team organised a large television screen to enable its supporters to collectively watch Australia's deathly last World Cup Qualifier against Uruguay direct from Montevideo.

The Social Club opened its doors at the crack of dawn (5:15 am) and prepared breakfast for its Soccer hungry supporters.

However with Australia's ultimate 3-0 loss, the attending supporters later reported for work with heavy hearts.

●●●●

GARY POWER, Soccer Australia's Director of Referees, retired from this position last Friday afternoon.

It's believed that Gary has already taken off for the tiny, (but oil-rich), Arabic nation, Qatar, where he has accepted a two year deal for the position of Director Of Referees.

●●●●

MOST annoying, (and for many many years), is the fact how there's always some insignificant members of the Media, always around and ever-willing to put the boot into Soccer.

It happened again late last Friday night.

At the end of the Spirit vs Perth Glory match at North Sydney Oval, some irate

Spirit supporters hurled the odd can onto the pitch to express their disgust at some of referee Simon Micallef's rulings during the match.

Well what an opportunity to make controversial headlines, thought a non Soccer Sydney Radio journalist.

Out beamed the bulletin on a Radio Network that 'a riot had broken out at a Soccer match' that same evening in Sydney, at North Sydney Oval.

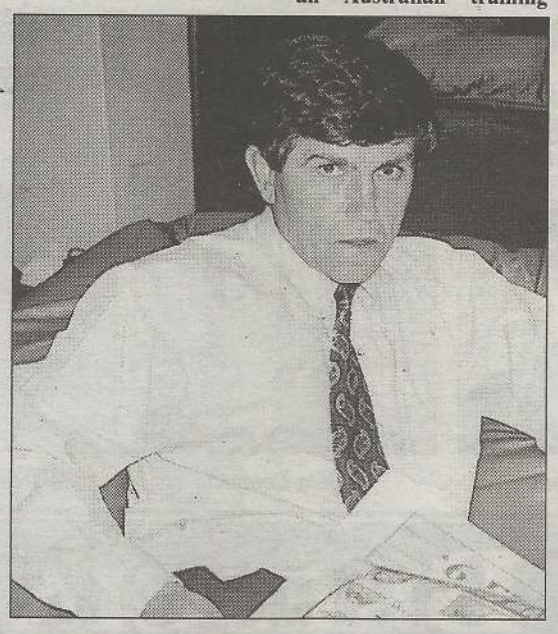
The story went on to say that 'this crowd disturbance at North Sydney Oval, came right on the heels of the hostile reception which the Australian World Cup team received on its arrival at Montevideo last Thursday'.

What the hell does one have to do with the other?

There was no riot at North Sydney Oval, and there wasn't one at Montevideo Airport.

By the way, the very same Radio station which made this 'Soccer riot' story its lead story in its late news bulletin, failed to broadcast the Spirit vs Glory match result.

This again is nothing but a blatant discriminating attack on Soccer by the media.



ZORAN MATIC: Adelaide City's boss.

The Good Oil ... The Good Oil ...

ANTE JURIC: Back for Olympic at his very best.

ANTE JURIC, Sydney Olympic's former captain, made a spectacular return for his Club last Saturday night in the Olympic Sharks' home match against the Wollongong Wolves.

Having just returned last week from six weeks trials in Austria as well as in Norway with Club side Molde, Juric was rushed into the team by coach Gary Phillips to do battle against the current League champions.

Juric failed to disappoint Phillips' faith in him and played an inspirational match for the Sharks.

And as a bonus, the towering sweeper even opened the score.

In the 36th minute, Juric who had advanced well upfield and into the Wollongong box, volleyed a cross fired in from the left with his 'wrong boot' into the target.

Juric's vigilant presence in Olympic's backline inspired twin central defenders Paul Kohler and Andrew Durante.

"He's a wonderful player and all our squad members respect him immensely," commented Phillips.

Most fittingly by the way, the goal scored by Juric was Olympic's 1,000 th goal scored in the NSL.

By John Economos

●●●●

Yesterday morning's World Cup Qualifier against Uruguay, was the very last played to decide the last and 32nd spot in next year's World Cup Finals in Japan/Korea.

This Qualifier was also the 778th played for this World Tournament.

●●●●

AUSTRALIA's World Cup campaign which came to an abrupt halt yesterday morning with the 3-0 loss to Uruguay, was our seventh attempt to get to the Finals.

The 1974 Australian team, then captained by blond sweeper Peter Wilson, still remains as our only side to have actually made it to the quadrennial Cup Finals.

That classic side that travelled to Munich 27 years ago, embraced some of Australia's legendary players which included the likes of Jimmy Fraser, Dougie Utjesenovic, Manfred Schaefer Col Curran, Johnny Watkiss, Johnny Warren, Jimmy Rooney, Jimmy Mackay, Atti Abonyi, Erni Campbell, Ray Baartz, Adrian Alston and Branko Buljevic.

Courageous goalkeeper Fraser, although having played in all the Qualifiers, failed to travel to the West Germany Finals because of his private Security business.

●●●●

2002 FIFA WORLD CUP KOREA JAPAN

PETER WILSON: Australia's 1974 World Cup captain and sweeper.

FRASER PARK JETS
SOCCER CLUB

Is holding its trials for the

2002 Super League Season

First Grade, U21 and U19
on Monday 26th and Wednesday 28th November
Monday 3rd and 10th,
Wednesday 5th and 12th December
6.30pm at

Mahony Park
(opposite Steel Park)
Marrickville.

For further information contact:
Danelle Dominguez M: 0412 130 310
Roger Jesus M: 0417 069 807

Coaches:
John Sentas, Ian Gillan, Ross Anton

MELBOURNE KNIGHTS
SOCCER CLUB

Coaches needed to fill some vacancies in our Junior ranks for the upcoming 2002 season. Coaches who are interested in joining the Melbourne Knights coaching staff for the above positions should forward their applications to:

Lucciano Trani
Youth Development Director
Lot 2, Somers Street
Sunshine North VIC 3020

APPLICATIONS CLOSE
MONDAY 10TH DECEMBER

NSL Season Guide Book
Now On Sale At Clubs

Supporters are now able to buy this Season's NSL Guide Book through their local NSL Club. Copies of this most comprehensive publication are now on sale at an NSL Club near you. Cost for the 2001/2002 Guide Book is $14:95c (incl:GST).

NATIONAL

For further enquiries contact Mr Gary Moretti at Soccer Australia on 02 - 9267 0799.

MACARTHUR DISTRICT
SOCCER FOOTBALL
ASSOCIATION INC.

SUPER LEAGUE 2002

THIS VERY PROGRESSIVE and AMBITIOUS ASSOCIATION INVITES YOU TO THE SELECTION TRIALS
We still have vacancies in the
UNDER 18'S, UNDER 21'S & 1st GRADE

Tuesday 27th & Thursday 29th November 2001
Lynwood Park Rangers Road, St Helens Park
6.30pm for 7.00pm Start

All trialists are to arrive ready to play.
Head Coach – Hugh McCrory.
For further details contact the Rams Office on (02) 4625 133
During Office Hours 9.30am-4.30pm Mon.-Fri.

YAGOONA LIONS
SOCCER FOOTBALL CLUB

"Alliance League 1st Grade Premiers - 2001"

* SELECTION TRIALS *
PREMIER LEAGUE 2002

BANKSTOWN DISTICT AMATEUR SOCCER ASSOCIATION
(B.D.A.S.A.)

PLAYERS WANTED

PREMIER LEAGUE PLAYERS - 2002
1st & 2nd Grade
ALLIANCE LEAGUE PLAYERS - 2002
1st & 2nd Grade

Trial Dates:
TUESDAY 27th NOVEMBER 2001 @ 6:30 pm
TUESDAY 4th DECEMBER 2001 @ 6:30 pm
TUESDAY 11th DECEMBER 2001 @ 6:30 pm

At:
O'Neil Park
Cnr Cooper Rd & Nobbs Rd, YAGOONA

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT:
PETER MAZIS: 0412-528-493
CHRIS CAKOVSKI: 0425-317-174

National Soccer League

Adelaide City 1
Brisbane Strikers 1

By Allan Crisp

Nick Sabljak turned his 2001/2002 season run-on debut game into a sensational career-saving effort by leading Adelaide City Force to a stirring 1-1 draw against the in-form Brisbane Strikers at Hindmarsh Stadium on Friday night.

Sabljak was faced with his final notice going into this match, with his enthusiasm, attitude and fitness under scrutiny from Force coach Zoran Matic.

The 21-year old veteran of 78 NSL matches answered every probing question with a Man-of-The-Match display which oozed skill, purpose and total resolve during a committed, unrelenting 90 minutes.

Sabljak, a SASI graduate of a few seasons ago, had made only a brief 15-minute appearance for City coming off the bench against Parramatta Power in October.

Socceroo Aurelio Vidmar, Matthew Kemp, Ante Kovacevic and Carl Veart also gave above-and-beyond calls of duty displays against a well-organised Strikers side which looked every inch a finals candidate.

Former West Adelaide Sharks defender Richie Alagich led the way for the visitors, who had solid performers in captain Stuart McLaren, ex-Adelaide City striker Kris Trajanovski and skill laden Fernando Rech.

But, despite the overall sense of purpose, this was a game of delays, with the kick-off held back for 10 minutes because of the late arrival of Melbourne referee Matthew Breeze; the dancers routine at half time delayed due to an initial lack of musical backing; and more importantly, a lengthy wait before the goals were scored.

Rarely has a goal-less first half produced as many scoring opportunities as this frenetic first 45 minutes.

Goal chances were created and squandered at both ends with Vidmar and young Scott Tunbridge running riot in the Brisbane box, while Trajanovski and Paul Foster caused concern at the City end.

The clearest of crystal clear chances fell to Foster at the 19 minute mark when the striker was left with only Adrian Cagalj between himself and goal glory, but the Force custodian made one of his trademark one-on-one brave saves.

Trajanovski set up Foster for another opportunity, but the latter managed to fire over the crossbar from two metres.

An inevitable goal came in the 60th minute as a shot from Rech hit Cagalj in the face and rebounded to John Carbone, who clipped the ball home to present the Strikers with the lead.

City levelled 16 minutes later with a brilliant reply as captain Veart lobbed for Sabljak to nod the ball on for Vidmar to head home from close range.

Aurelio Vidmar: Scored Adelaide's lone goal.

Three minutes earlier, Vidmar put Sabljak through the centre and he nutmegged the goalkeeper, but Jason Kearton managed to deflect the attempt for a corner.

Statistics show that City invaded the Strikers penalty area 29 times to 22 by Brisbane, but the visitors could tell the most graphic hard luck stories as Alagich rammed a drive against the crossbar in the 58th minute and substitute Dave Pilic struck a post five minutes from the final whistle.

The City corner count figures of 13 cornerkicks to three by Brisbane also illustrated the Force's desire to please its home fans.

But, the sides drew the contest and drew the obvious conclusion from this exciting 90 minutes – there are no prizes for missing the target.

Parramatta Power 1
Marconi Stallions 0

By Joe Russo

In front of the usual 3,342 spectators at Parramatta Stadium, the home team Parramatta Power beat visitors Marconi Stallions to move into the NSL's top six.

Power are certainly not used to being in such a good position as they are the annual under-achievers.

Coach David Mitchell can finally allow himself a moment in the sunshine albeit, given's Power's past, it may only be brief.

It was a goal in the 74th minute when substitute Luke Roodenburg headed-in very well from a Lubo Lapsansky ball.

Roodenburg is Power's equivalent to a 'super sub' because he radiates enthusiasm and generally creates havoc when he comes on.

Luke Roodenburg: Got the winner for Parramatta.

Marconi were not without their chances, but poor finishing will not have not have pleased coach Lee Sterrey.

In the 10th minute it was Kevo Gulessarian and in the 34th it was John Maisano who couldn't finish off their respective chances.

Power's goalkeeper Les Pogliacomi, an ex Marconi player, was arguably their most valuable player. Not only did he deny Gulessarian, Maisano and Norman Tome valuable chances, he did very well to prevent an own goal.

Les Pogliacomi: Kept Parramatta in the game with cruicial saves.

It was the 48th minute when a Dave Barrett deflection really tested the Power custodian. Embarrassing it may have been, had Pogliacomi not been so alert.

The disappointing factor must surely be the crowd - a very poor attendance which is now becoming the norm at Parramatta Stadium. A local derby on a beautiful Saturday evening is deserving a bigger attendance. Power have failed miserably to attract a following and it is clear that Saturday night is not the answer.

Power face Perth Glory away next week and against the current undefeated team, will be able to gauge their true form. Furthermore, they may like to take some marketing lessons from Glory on how to attract people to home matches.

Northern Spirit 0
Perth Glory 2

By Tim Caimakamis

In front of a crowd of 7, 580 at the picturesque North Sydney Oval last Friday night, Perth Glory exorcised the Northern's spirit in a controversial 0-2 match that keeps them on top of the NSL table.

The game was marred by some inconsistent refereeing decisions that benefited the Glory, much to the displeasure of the Spirit's loyal and vocal supporters. So irate were the fans, referee Simon Micallef needed the intervention of Spirit stalwart Robbie Slater to quell the fans plus the aid of the Police to escort the referee from the field.

Spirit coach Mickey Hickman also had a word with Micallef at full-time. Pressed to comment, Hickman diplomatically said he would have an in-depth conversation with Micallef after the press conference. On the prospect of an official complaint? "I will speak with my Club officials who will decide on an appropriate reaction."

With clinical precision, Perth ensured their seventh consecutive victory for the season, (equalling the record), and along with Newcastle, are now the only undefeated teams in the League.

"It was a good all-round workman like performance, as we kept at it and defended well. We are well pleased with our performance," stated the Glory's assistant coach Alan Vest.

Against the run of play in the 11th minute, Perth struck gold from a 30 metre free-kick in front of goal. While everyone expected Perth's midfielder Brad Maloney to cross into the box, he arrogantly shot directly at goal, curling the ball into the top right hand corner to catch an embarrassed Paul Henderson by surprise for Goal No 1.

In the 15th minute Micallef's first controversial decision surfaced when he failed to award the Spirit what seemed to be a certain penalty.

Spirit left wingback Simon Bell, evaded his man and crossed the ball into the six yard box. With Spirit's Andy McDermott desperate to reach the cross, he was pulled down by Perth's Scott Miller only for the referee to play-on.

Perth were solid in defence and content to sit back and counter-attack, relying purely on the pace of their two inform strikers, (Mori and Despotovski), to create opportunities.

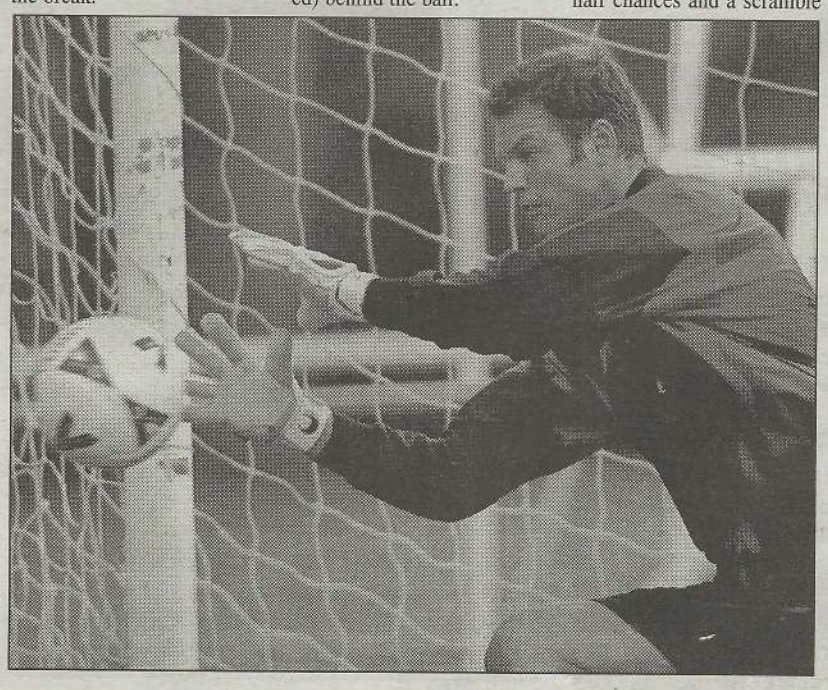
The injured McDermott was replaced by the nuggety blond midfielder Scotty Thomas in the 38th minute who making his debut for the season.

A minute before the break, Micallef again set the scene for further controversy when he awarded Perth a very soft penalty for a push in the back by Bell on Matt Horsley. Fittingly, the hard working Bobby Despotovski converted the spot-kick to lift the Glory to a 0-2 lead at the break.

The second half play was far more open as the Spirit searched for a lifeline. Alas, Spirit failed to convert into goals their dominance of possession. Their conservative style with deliberate intricate build ups, played into the hands of the steady Glory defence as Perth were under instruction to get every man (strikers excepted) behind the ball.

"They played in front of us and their slow build-up helped us", said a satisfied Alan Vest. "The three central defenders were very solid and we defended the best we have done as a unit, (this season), tonight" concluded the assistant coach Vest.

Spirit had their best chance for a goal in the 89th minute when, following two half chances and a scramble in the box, striker Pablo Cardozo shot from 10 metres only for the Glory's goalie Jason Petkovic to tip the danger over the bar. As the Spirit were confined to long range efforts, their frustration came to the fore as no fewer than five of their players received yellow cards.



Jason Petkovic: The Glory's star international custodian.

Aggravating matters, in the 79th minute, Spirit's strapping central defender Michael Cartwright received his second yellow card and given his marching orders, whilst in injury time, striker Adrian Cervinski was sent off for a dangerous tackle. The only positive out of the match for the Spirit, was the home debut-start of Camerounian left flanker, Simon Bell.

Bell provided much attacking flair and often during the game was found in scoring positions only to come just short. Hickman commented: "Simon, (Bell), did well tonight, and has worked hard and I'm well pleased with him."

For the Glory, they were solid all over the park without having to get into top gear.

National Soccer League

Melbourne Knights 2
Football Kingz 1

By Bert Van Bedaf

A magnificent rainbow formed the colourful backdrop to a rain-soaked match that finished dramatically 2-1 in favour of the Melbourne Knights, who stole the pot of gold, after the Football Kingz had gone a goal ahead in the 80th minute.

It was the first win at home for the Knights this season and it could not have come in more exciting fashion with a ten minute burst of frantic action after 80 minutes of dismal football in trying circumstances.

The Kingz snatched the lead through substitute Campbell Banks and looked destined for their second post-Mike Petersen win, but Knights captain-coach Andrew Marth headed home the equaliser with 20 seconds left of normal time and Toto Da Costa struck the winner a minute into injury time.

"The main thing is we got three points in front our home crowd, but I thought we played well in shocking conditions. We just kept the ball long and hoped for the best," a relieved Marth said.

The Knights captain-coach was everywhere on the ground and his workload was tremendous. Marth defended, stood out in midfield and scored the vital equaliser for his side.

"The most positive aspect of the game was the fact the boys never gave up. When we fell a goal behind they never dropped their heads and went on with it," he said.

Kingz coach Kevin Fellon was crestfallen. "I'm speechless, really," Fallon said.

"I thought we did a good job for 89 minutes. We'd been defending well up till then, but we should have done it for 92 minutes, I guess. At 1-0, I thought we'd go home with something but then we had the stuffing knocked out of us. On balance, I thought a draw would have been a fair result," he said.

Another wet snap caught Melbourne late afternoon and prevented either team from producing skilled football on the water-logged pitch.

The Knights forged the first opportunity after 30 minutes from a Joel Porter free-kick. Marth knocked it on and Kingz 'keeper James Bannatyne got a touch that pushed it on towards the net. But George Goutzioulos saved it off the line.

Alex Kiratzoglou hit wide from an accidental touch that came off the inside of his left heel from a Toto Da Costa cross five minutes before a dark sky threatened to drop more rain on Knights Stadium.

Although the rain stayed away, enough water was dumped on the ground to prevent effective passing with every pass smothered in the polo-like puddles.

The Knights got another chance to go ahead just past the hour. Rody Vargas serviced his bother Andy with a delicate through-pass, which gave the attacking midfielder a one-on-one with Bannatyne. But the Kingz 'keeper parried the attempt with a dive to his right.

Andrew Marth: Scored the vital equaliser for Knights.

Kiratzoglou shot wide in the 67 minute, injuring his left leg in the process, enabling Ivan Jolic to come into the side off the bench.

Fallon substituted striker John Markovski in the 78th minute with newcomer Campbell Banks and the move paid off two minutes later.

Coming on for his first NSL game, following elevation from the local New Zealand league, Banks knocked in the opening goal with a bouncing header from a Mark Atkinson cross.

The Knights looked gone for all money until Marth levelled with a looping header in the last minute. Referee Perry Mur signalled four minutes of time added on and the Knights took to the Kingz with some last-gasp attacks.

Jolic sent in the low cross that landed at the feet of Totō, who had his back to goal at close range. With a deft right-foot back heeler he slid the ball past Bannatyne for the winning goal.

Olympic Sharks 2
Wollongong Wolves 1

By Tim Caimakamis

On a balmy Saturday evening, four minutes of excitement was enough to secure The Sharks maximum points against the Wollongong Wolves with a 2-1 victory at Shark Park wedged on the shores of Botany Bay.

A match of few highlights to entertain the relatively small crowd of 4,932, it will be remembered by the Olympic faithful for the occasion of the Club scoring its 1000th goal since being in the NSL.

Dean Anastasiadis: His numerous crucial saves could not salvage Wolves.

The Sharks went into the match coming off a hard fought win against Adelaide City the previous week and with the knowledge they'd be starting the match with their inspirational Ante Juric.

Ante, Olympic's influential sweeper and captain for the past two seasons, landed back in Australia last Tuesday from trials conducted in both Norway and Austria, and had his clearance confirmed only on the morning of the match. Together with the Club's other new recruit, former Australian international striker, Joe Spiteri, they've added much needed experience to the young Olympic guns.

With few real chances, the match erupted in the 35th minute when Olympic's defender Jade North crossed in from the left which Juric volleyed with his left boot into the net, marking his return in emphatic style, to give Olympic a 1-0 lead.

Within sixty seconds at the other end, the Wolves stung back when sweeper Ben Blake played the ball to Dino Mennillo on the left. With limited options and 30 metres from goal, Mennillo fired a glorious angled cross-ball to the advancing Con Anthopoulos on the right wing who steadied himself to cross back into Olympic's box to find Blake. Blake had continued his forward raid to the far post from where he slotted home the equaliser.

With the game at fever pitch, Anthopoulos was again involved two minutes later, this time colliding with Sharks' striker Jeromy Harris inside his penalty box. In what seemed a harsh decision, referee Con Diomis awarded a penalty. Celebrating in style his 20th Birthday, Olympic's playmaker Nicky Carle stepped up to score Olympic's second to restore his team's lead.

The second session was a case of missed opportunities, with Olympic taking the game to the Wolves in search of a third goal.

Most threatening for the Sharks, was right flanker Lindsay Wilson and their mobile midfielder Tommy Pondeljak. With a little luck Pondeljak could have scored two or even three goals.

On the hour mark following a nice build up with much interplay around the box, Pondeljak blasted across the face of goal and just wide.

Minutes later, young central defender Andrew Durante found space and squared the ball to Harris, who in turn squared on to Pondeljak on the edge of the box. However the latter's powerful drive flew just over the horizontal.

In the 76th minute, Wollongong had its best chance to equalise, when a Mennillo freekick curled into the Olympic box and deflected of a defender, only to deflect straight to keeper Clint Bolton.

The last ten minutes saw Wolves 'keeper Dean Anastasiadis twice pull off diving saves to tip the ball over the bar, the first of which was a 25-metre effort from Pondeljak, with the second being a violent volley from left midfielder Andrew Packer.

Olympic were solid in defence, no doubt strengthened by the presence of Juric. Best for Olympic were Juric, Pondeljak and Wilson, while for the Wolves, Mennillo worked hard, as did Blake and Anastasiadis.

Esala Masi: Seen here in action against Brisbane Strikers last week, grabbed the vital winning goal for Newcastle.

South Melbourne 0
Newcastle United 1

By Bert Van Bedaf

Newcastle United remained undefeated and kept the pressure on leader Perth Glory with a dour 1-0 away victory over home side South Melbourne at Bob Jane Stadium last Sunday night.

Fijian international Esala Masi struck the winner late in the second half.

South's loss left the former champion second bottom on the ladder but only because Sydney United had the bye.

"If ever there was a game that looked like finishing in a 0-0 draw it was this one," Newcastle coach Ian Crook said, more or less surprised to come away with the three points.

"It was one of those games we would have been happy to come away with a draw. You've got to be really solid (coming to South Melbourne) and I thought we defended quite well," he said.

"We knew it was going to be a hard game and where they are (second on the ladder) Newcastle is a hard team (to beat)," South coach Eddie Krncevic said after the club's fifth loss this season.

"It is disappointing to cop a loss at home. We went flat in the second half and there wasn't a Newcastle player that didn't work hard," he said.

"It isn't going to be an easy year for us and I said that all along," Krncevic said about South's poor performance this season.

"We could have jumped up four or five spots (with a win), but it wasn't to be. We'll need to work hard and it's not going to happen overnight. We have to work with what we've got and there's no quick fix," Krncevic said.

There were few chances in the first half with Scott Baillie having an attempt blocked by South captain Steve Panopoulos after 23 minutes and South Melbourne failing on two occasions.

Joe Bacak had a good run on goal for South Melbourne on 38 minutes but stranded on Newcastle 'keeper Daniel Beltrame, while Peter Buljan appeared to have been brought down in the box by Baillie but there was not much of an appeal when referee Mark Shield waved for play-on.

South created a few more chances early in the second half without setting the world on fire.

Patrick Kisnorbo headed over the bar from a Steve Panopoulos cross a minute after the break and Buljan had an angled shot deflected by Chris Zoricich in the 47th minute that Beltrame pushed for a corner.

Newcastle finally broke the deadlock after 73 minutes. Robbie Middleby put in the cross and Masi had more time on the ball than a circus juggler. The unmarked Fijian international put away a bouncing shot from inside the box to secure Newcastle's win.

Australia's World Cup Story From the Grandstand (Opening Chapter at MCG)

By Arvind Hickman

A sea of "green & gold" celebrate after Kevin Muscat blasts Australia into the lead.

Arrival

I have always enjoyed my visit's to Melbourne. This beautiful city with its delicately cultured alleyways and abundance of stylish café's offers a refreshing contrast to the fast paced life of Sydney.

Stepping onto the platform at Spencer St station presented an overcast yet "balmy" summer morning.

There was never any real threat of rain and the forecast was for sunshine.

At least the heavens were with us today I thought.

Picking up an edition of "The Age" that morning I remember reading a very useful article explaining the rules of soccer and describing what the World Cup was.

A real lifesaver that was, but at least it showed how much the city and the media had embraced soccer, well … at least once in four years.

There was a real buzz, a sense of anticipation around the streets.

I would describe it as being similar to what Sydney experienced on the eve of the Olympics. Almost everyone wearing the "green and gold" had instantly become best friends, and the sense of comradery that had transcended on every Australian face promised something special.

I met up with the rest of the team at around noon on the steps of Parliament house.

Shaun Armstrong, Brendan Armstrong and Natacha Xavier were the three legends that made my experience so special.

All 'die-hard' Northern Spirit supporters, they are great friends and great people who truly epitomise what soccer is all about with their passion and enthusiasm for the game.

The Goal

One week is a long time in football I thought as Kevin Muscat lined up Australia's fate under the deadly silence of a packed MCG in the 78th minute.

Expectations were on knife edge as the Socceroos had delivered wave upon wave of attack, with little result thus far, and now finally came the moment of truth.

Admittedly, all I could remember after the referee had pointed to the spot was the huge roar racing around the terraces of the "G" with snowballing momentum. It was electric.

I didn't really see what had happened on the far side of the ground. We were comfortably tucked away with the supporters behind Schwarzers goal and largely relied on the "big screen" for Aussie goalmouth action in the second half, but who could take their eyes off the field.

All I knew was that this moment in Australian soccer history had to be something huge, and we rose in premature celebration nevertheless.

I can't remember if it was Brendan, Shaun or Natacha who seconds later told me it was a penalty. It didn't matter who, my heart didn't care and started racing at a hundred miles an hour in nervous anticipation.

I gripped Natacha and Brendan's sweaty palms tightly, waiting to see who would step up and hopefully send our beloved Socceroos on their way. It was Muscat.

Wolverhampton Wanderers regular penalty taker I was reassured.

While Kevin never mucks around from the spot, the agonising wait seemed like an eternity.

Only a week ago after the France game he was labelled, largely by the media, as a "risk" or "liability" to the team, and now was his moment to instantly become immortalised in Australian soccer folklore.

The run up was relaxed, the keeper went left, the ball dead straight. We all rose as one, the whole ground, the whole country.

Deadly silence turned into deafening jubilation. I was sure it could be heard in Montivideo.

I hugged my three companions confident we had the game with only twelve minutes to go. Muscat you're a bloody champion. "Here we go, Here we go, Here we go…"

The "team" proudly holding an upside down Australia flag: (from left to right) Brendan Armstrong, Shaun Armstrong, Natacha Xavier, and ABSW's Arvind Hickman.

Postcard from the stands … Uruguay defends an Australian corner in the second half.

TV Cameras capture Pre-game drinks

Ok, so Natacha was off shopping, as you do in Melbourne, while Brendan, Shaun and myself were going to get down to business.

Club "Inflation" was the venue for the Australian Supporters group pre-game drinks.

No huge soccer international was complete without this traditional gathering of die-hard soccer supporters.

My theory on the occasion is that everyone needs a few drinks to calm their nerves, while loosening up the old vocal chords.

On this occasion however, we were to bellow out tunes to the camera's of Channel Nine and SBS.

But people be warned, when you watch all the supporters chanting in this environment on TV, as I was, it is completely and 100% staged.

The pub was not in continual song and I remember when I was being filmed by SBS for World Sports, I had no idea what the words were and was just following the leader.

This isn't of course to deny the level of support and allegiance shown by every individual in that room.

The supporters were magnificent and this important prelude I am sure played its part in 'tuning' the sound levels to be at a premium for the big one.

The Game

Australia 1
Muscat (pen) 79
Uruguay 0

By Bert van Bedaf

This was the win Australia had to have and it came in fairytale fashion.

Branded a villain in the Gallic media after he brought controversy to the France game with a cruel tackle on Christopher Dugarry only nine days earlier, Kevin Muscat turned classic hero at the decisive moment.

With a pressure penalty in the 79th minute, Australia's toughest defender put Australia 90 minutes away from the 32nd and last spot at the World Cup finals next year under a jubilant Melbourne sky.

He kissed the Aussie badge on his shirt. He stormed across the advertising hordes to celebrate with the delirious 84,000-plus crowd. He blew kisses into the MCG cauldron and basked in the blazing floodlights.

It was the best performance of any Australian soccer team on home soil in three decades and it came at the people's ground where the grass quivers with fame and fortune in three other sporting codes, cricket, rugby and Australian Rules football. Socceroos take a bow.

Sport is war and art. The difference is it is not scripted and it could have been so dangerously different. Australia was nearly caught out after three minutes when Uruguay's midfield miracle man Alvaro Recoba launched a looping shot from 35 metres that had Mark Schwarzer scrambling back to save centimetres from the crossbar and right on his goal line.

Yet, it could have worked out in return as well. Three minutes later the Socceroos were as far from scoring from a Stan Lazaridis corner, when Craig Moore, scorer against France, rose in the box and powered the ball on target. It was a blistering header that had the crowd roaring in anticipation. But Uruguay 'keeper Fabian Carini just managed to tip it over the bar for another corner with bending fingernails.

Australia had the better opportunities. Its corner tally of eight to nil at half time showed its dominance, however, the set pieces rendered no dividend and the tension was building with every tick of time.

Towards the end of the first half, Lazaridis and Kewell began crowding each other's space all too frequently and after the break Farina wisely decided to leave Lazaridis out of the side, put Kewell wide and bring on a hungry Paul Agostino to partner embattled Viduka. It was a repeat of the France tactics and it earned Australia victory.

Viduka almost got on to an Emerton cross in the 46th minute, but the V-Bomber again had a trying time up front. Not having scored for the Socceroos in four years must bother the Leeds striker, but his time might well come in Montevideo.

Uruguay ventured more forward after the break and Santos put a header wide in the 47th minute. In the 52nd minute, the South Americans grabbed their first corner, which Recoba swung in for a goal kick. The signs seemed ominous.

Recoba turned in a vicious shot from an acute angle just after the hour, but Schwarzer pushed it for a corner with a reflex fist at the base of the near post.

Australia came back into the game with Agostino attempting an overhead kick and Viduka challenging Carini, but the breakthrough goal the capacity crowd craved was not as yet forthcoming.

Agostino again came agonisingly close with a brilliant header from a Kewell cross on 70 minutes. Carini lunged desperately to the far apex where bar and post join as the ball struck the woodwork and was cleared.

Finally, Farina's masterstroke to push Agostino into the firing line paid off.

In came another Kewell cross, brilliantly won against two Uruguayan defenders. Dario Rodriguez applied the emergency break and Australia's Munich-based striker was brought down. Italian referee Graziano Cesari immediately pointed to the white spot.

In hindsight, he also should have given the Uruguay defender a red card.

Goalscorer Kevin Muscat hugs teammate Shaun Murphy (14).

Not only was Rodriguez the last man in defence and had denied Agostino a clear chance on goal, he'd already been given yellow in the 33rd minute, some things the highly-reputed Cesari overlooked in the heat of the night.

Enter Muscat, who'd already enjoyed an excellent game that was about to climax. He blew himself free of some anxious breath, took a measured run and in one fluent motion side-footed the ball past Carini for 'Australia's all-important lead.

The Socceroos' outstanding defence of Muscat, Moore, Murphy and Vidmar(the triple M and big V) in front of an equally resolute Schwarzer kept the vital nil that may get them the ultimate prize.

Australia flew out at 8pm the following morning in the knowledge that it had one leg in the World Cup and that it was the daunting matter of one more step on Latin land to repeat the fabulous feat achieved only once 27 years ago.

• *Turn to Pages 16-17 for the closing chapter of the World Cup story in Montevideo, Uruguay.*

Mark Bosnich: I'm not at my best yet

IT WAS been 31 days last week, since Mark Bosnich made his Chelsea debut and already those in the know are saying he could end the season acclaimed as the best goalkeeper in the Premiership.

True, his long-awaited chance came by default, when Ed de Goey and Carlo Cudicini were unavailable through injury for the first leg of the UEFA Cup tie against Hapoel Tel Aviv.

However, De Goey and Cudicini are both now fit, and six games down the line, it is Bozzo, the new, bouncing fit, deeply motivated Mark Bosnich who has the jersey and a growing collection of compliments.

As Frank Farina, the Australian national coach, predicted: "Once he gets back in, they'll need a crowbar to get him out again."

And, boy, did Bosnich need to seize this opportunity. Regarded as one of the world's most talented keepers - in his Aston Villa days goalkeeping coaches urged their pupils to study him - he now needed to correct the perception that his 13-year career in English football has kangaroo-hopped along like a Ferrari fed the wrong kind of petrol.

There was brilliance at Villa, with two League Cup victories (1994 and 1996), followed by an uncomfortable time after he announced his wish to move on. There were starring roles at Manchester United, notably in the 1999 World Club Cup victory over Palmeiras, and a 1999-2000 Championship medal, followed by the humiliation of being consigned to the reserves by Sir Alex Ferguson, who signed Massimo Taibi, and then Fabien Barthez as his No 1.

Mark Bosnich: Usurped the Chelsea No 1 shirt recently after posting a string of impressive performances.

There was the move to Chelsea last January, with the perfect platform to prove a point, once he had got over a hernia operation. But this season, until Oct 18, his status in world football was No 3 keeper at his club. The lack of first-team competition lost him his place in the Australian national side to Middlesbrough's Mark Schwarzer. His career would surely have stalled - or worse - had he not shone so brightly once given his chance by Claudio Ranieri.

Mark Bosnich: "Aston Villa was an enjoyable period but I stayed there too long. I was in the comfort zone."

"That thought does occur to me now, but only after I've got over that hurdle. Not at the time," admitted Bosnich over a cup of tea in a hotel a short walk from his Knightsbridge home.

"I've always been an optimistic person. I always believed I would get my opportunities so I've had to train hard and be patient. I still feel that I'm not back to firing on all cylinders, but I'd missed it that much I've appreciated every minute of every game. The way I've played has pleased me so far. And I have to say, the fact that we have got an excellent defence also makes a huge difference. A goalkeeper who plays behind a great defence can be made to look . . . well, it makes our job much easier, put it that way."

Is this Bosnich, never known for his self-doubt, turning all modest on us? Is this Bosnich disingenuously suggesting his rivals for his position may not be as good as they seem? Neither. It is simply him, the team man, summing up his debut days with an honesty that in the past has been easily distorted.

Take the Chelsea Stayaway Six Saga. Bosnich, delighted to have made his debut with aplomb, was asked on the return flight from Tel Aviv about the absence of key players.

His answer was candid, but diplomatic. "I'd be lying if I said it wasn't significant. Of course it is. The six players who didn't go, three or four of them are the heart of our team . . . but we live in a democracy and that means everybody has got freedom of speech. Each person's opinion should be granted full and utter respect, no matter what it is."

The second half of his statement was ignored. He woke up to headlines about Bosnich slating his team-mates, but he could do so with a wry smile. "In my younger days I would probably have got into trouble, but I had taken Gwyn Williams [Chelsea's assistant-manager] to the back of the plane with me as a precaution. That comes with experience. So when the team asked me a few days later what I had said, Gwyn could tell them exactly what happened.

"Footballers get pigeonholed early on in their careers. When you are a type of character who's maybe got plenty to offer and can wear many hats, it's more confusing for those who are trying to pigeonhole you. In football it's difficult to change that image because you are growing up as you're playing and a man of 21 and a man of 30 are two completely different men."

Observers have talked of Bosnich's "capacity to self-destruct". While admitting he understands where they are coming from, he explains how his career to date - complete with the odd unsavoury headline-hogging incident - has been a valuable learning process. After some of this season's more notorious footballing bad-boy incidents, some people noted the mature Bosnich saying that would have been him in earlier days.

"Yeah, I got that. But my problems have never been alcohol related. When I've got myself into trouble it's been more of a spur of a moment thing. I've made mistakes in my career, but I've also done good things, and one thing I can say, which has been consistent - good or bad - I've taken my medicine like a man. As long as you can hold your hands up and say 'I was wrong' I don't think there's a problem."

Aussie brashness has been cited as the source of previous rumoured managerial personality clashes, but Bosnich says his temperament owes more to his Croatian blood. Based in Sydney, his father comes from the Dalmatian Coast, from the same town as his mother, though she was born in Australia. Bosnich signed first for Manchester United when he was only 17.

"If you were with my parents, you'd see they are such calm, nice people. Sometimes it's difficult when you haven't got a steadying influence around you. If I had had my parents here, and my family, I wouldn't have made 90 per cent of the mistakes I've made," he said. "Fortunately in London now I've got a fantastic lot of people who are my surrogate family, people I can turn to and trust and look up to. I had to make those changes in my life and I did."

After 18 months out of high-profile action, Bosnich has a healthy perspective on his career. "Aston Villa was an enjoyable period but I stayed there too long. I was in the comfort zone.

"Manchester United was fantastic to go back to, but I was put in a very difficult environment, not made by me. It was made by somebody else. I had problems resulting from an injury I sustained in my last season at Aston Villa, when I had five months out. So I had problems with fitness throughout and everyone had their potshots.

"The way I see it now, I played 35 games, 23 in the Premier League, eight in the Champions League and a few others, and only conceded 33 goals and won two trophies. Some of the games I played were the big ones, Atletico Madrid away and Palmeiras, and I played as well as I have throughout my entire career. So on top of all that was thrown at me, I learnt more about myself and the people around me in that time than during any of the good times. And winning two trophies in one season . . . put it this way, you never win a championship with a bad goalkeeper."

As for the competition at Chelsea, he has learnt to appreciate its merits. "If you're not pushed beyond your limits every day, you're never going to improve. You get to a certain level and you stay still, so I enjoy having someone breathing down my neck. Sometimes I've thought I'd like to take the easy way out and have some young kid that you know you're going to beat week in, week out, but in the long run you don't improve. It feels crueller but it's kinder if you're kept on your toes. I'm fine with both Ed and Carlo. They're goalkeepers and everyone knows about the goalkeepers' union."

• Courtesy, Daily Telegraph

Letters to the Editor

Knights and the ghost of Bobby

Dear Sir,

I am writing about last season's Bobby Despotovski unfortunate face-off with the Melbourne Knights.

Bobby Despotovski as a professional athlete shouldn't have reacted the way he did to the crowd. He is a player who gets paid big dollars to perform for his club not upset the supporters.

Bobby should expect to cop all the swearing from supporters. Every player cops it. It's not just him.

They fined Melbourne Knights and said they can't play their home fixture at Knights Stadium. What did they give to Bobby Or yea, we will just give him a fine.

When they set the rule that the Knights can't play their fixture against the Perth Glory at the Knights Stadium they should have said that Bobby cannot also play in both fixtures this season. Where is the fairness in this.

You fine a player and let him get away with serious offence but you kill a club's reputation.

A club ran out with black balaclavas on the last game of their season in the Victorian Premier League only for five seconds and they nearly kicked that club out of the league. They thought it was an act of terrorism. Well if this wasn't an act of terrorism, what is?

From the feedback from some supporters in Perth, they reckon that the whole of the Perth Glory supporters were doing three-finger salutes at the Knights players. This is not acceptable.

I bet no action will be taken against this because Perth Glory are the Championship favourites and they are going to be Soccer Australia's new NSL Champions in 2001, but if it were the Knights' fans who did some war symbol for sure the club would get fined because it is regarded that the Melbourne Knights are all trouble makers. Where is the fairness in this?

I would however like to wish Frank Farina and his Socceroos the best in making the World Cup finals.

Burim Sulemani,
Dandenong South, VIC.

Bobby Despotovski: His actions in an NSL game last season still haunting Melbourne Knights.

Simon Micallef: Handled the Australia, France friendly game.

MISFIRING MICALLEF

Dear Sir,

Having played the game from the time my dad used to take me to the beach back in England when I was so big and played mostly amateur until I had to give it away due to injury, then becoming a referee out here for 16 years now retired years ago (ninety nine per cent of refs have never played).

I think the Australian Soccer body made a mistake by giving the Aussie vs France game to an Aussie referee. (A neutral referee from another country would have sent-off Muscat for that tackle.

It was just like a few weeks ago during the Leeds vs Manchester United game the referee there got downgraded because he failed to send-off Robbie Keane.

What about Beckham? He should have gone as well when he kicked Keane's feet from under him.

All he got was a yellow card. I wonder if the Referee body will downgrade the referee for not sending Muscat off.

I am just glad I am on the other side of the fence.

D. Gardner,
Hampton Park. VIC.

LOPSIDED NSL

Dear Sir,

If a structured league is what Soccer Australia and the public prefer (not me), then surely the imbalance of geographical representation should be rectified. People who live in the ACT, Tasmania, North Queensland and the Northern Territory currently cannot attend a match.

Sydney cannot sustain adequate crowd support for five teams, even the local derby crowds are starting to diminish and important regional centres such as the Central Coast, Geelong, Gold Coast and Townsville are not represented in the NSL and can somebody tell me why we have a team from New Zealand in our league.

Rugby League has no choice but to have a Kiwi team in their league to keep some sort of profile for the code in another country, but soccer needs no promotion! It's the world game, always has, always will be.

Gary Cerulli,

THANX ABSW!

Dear Sir,

Thank God for the efforts by your staff in keeping us well informed.

Without you we would be lost, you are just so good. I look forward to a good read every week for only $3.60. No other sporting paper could match your price and your content.

Thank you to everyone who helps. All together I can see you love your Soccer.

Mike Heron,
Melbourne. VIC.

NO SYMPATHY FOR I.E.C.

Dear Sir,

I have no sympathy or pity for the I.E.C., plus those in charge such as Dominic Galati and Bertie Mariani, if they don't see a profit from the two big Soccer games given to the company to run.

Any clown could tell you it doesn't make financial sense to play both big games in the same city within less than two weeks of each other.

It weakens the ticketing prices, plus the chance to sellout the friendly game in particular.

If I was in charge of I.E.C. I would have greased a few palms to keep Sydney's Olympic Stadium at 110,000 capacity until the end of 2001, before reducing its capacity in 2002.

Then I would have given the friendly against France to Melbourne, but the World Cup qualifier to Sydney. Regardless of the weather, the friendly would have grossed 6 to 7 million dollars in ticket sales, with the real profit coming from the qualifier in Sydney.

With 110,000 seats sold at an average price of $180 ticket, it would bring in almost $20 million (premium prices $360, cheapest $120).

Before any critics say "sure sure, in your dreams," remember this qualifier in Melbourne against Uruguay will still be a sellout in a city that doesn't embrace Soccer at a domestic level whatsoever.

In the inner NSW's area of Newcastle, Sydney, Wollongong, there are four times more Soccer fans than in the whole of Victoria guaranteed.

That's why the area has more than half the NSL teams in the comp (7 in total).

Stadium Australia would or could have been sold out twice over, if the game was played there. In fact it would have been a scalper's paradise for certain.

Anyway the main thing I hope is, that Australia, qualifies for next years World Cup finals, so that Soccer Australia grab control again of these qualifying games in the future, so at least be able to make a huge profit from that once in every four yearly event.

By my estimation, at least 8 to 10 million dollars net profit went begging this time, so let's make sure it doesn't happen again.

Dominic Scullino,
Nerang. QLD.

International Entertainment CORPORATION

Daily Telegraph's Soccer – Slanging

Dear Sir,

One Sydney scribe (best known for his undying support of the deposed Tony Labbozzetta) has taken aim at Remo Nogarotto over his ill advised comments about the NSL.

I am, (like many), no admirer of Nogarotto's Soccer credentials, but it is a bit sick for the *Daily Telegraph's* "chief" Soccer writer to point the bone.

The very poor coverage of the NSL given by the D.T. is in no small way a factor why the NSL struggles so much in Sydney.

I accept the fact that the D.T. is first and foremost a Rugby League paper. However if the Sydney Swans can get decent coverage in the D.T. during the RL season, why can't the NSL get a half decent coverage in the off season.

The beleaguered Parramatta Power would definitely benefit if the D.T. increased its NSL coverage. How this could come about remains to be seen.

I doubt anything will change much whilst that 'chief Soccer writer' remains at the D.T.

One thing is for sure, if that 'writer' moved on, few readers, (Soccer fans) would even notice, let alone miss him.

R. Melor,
Bondi, NSW.

VICTORIAN SOCCER'S PLAGUES

Dear Sir,

I am no expert on what ails Victorian Soccer but on my visits to Melbourne, I have noticed a few interesting pointers.

Why is it that so many Melbourne AFL clubs have such a high proportion of supporters who are from Soccer backgrounds?

Of course the same thing applies in Sydney with Rugby League but not on such a scale.

Why is it that so many people in Melbourne (and their families) with Soccer backgrounds sever all links with Soccer.

In Sydney, Brisbane, Adelaide and Perth these same people very often reduce their association with Soccer but still play the game and/or follow the game on TV.

No doubt AFL is a big problem but remember AFL is just as popular in Perth and Adelaide.

Yet Soccer is extremely healthy in Perth and even in Adelaide there is a large body of recreational players and interest in British Soccer via TV very strong.

Blaming the AFL for Soccer's problems in Melbourne is a simplistic cop-out; the real problems of the game in Victoria go much deeper.

R. Melor,
Bondi. NSW.

OFF THE CROSSBAR

By Allan Crisp

GROUNDS FOR COMPLAINT

Despite reports that the South Australian Baseball League has been granted a two–year lease of Thebarton Oval, Adelaide Olympic FC WILL play its Premier League homes games that facility next season.

Olympic chairman Zis Ginos and secretary Andrew Haralampopoulos yesterday issued confident statements to ABSW that the battle for possession of Thebarton Oval being waged between soccer and baseball was far from over.

Thebarton Oval was the home base of the former West Torrens Football Club (Aussie rules), but after that club merged to become the Woodville West Torrens Eagles, the Adelaide Sharks grabbed the lease.

Following the demise of the NSL club, the reborn Olympic FC switched its playing base to Thebarton in 2000 when it charged through the entire Premier League season undefeated before clinching the Top Five Finals series and Premier League promotion.

The West Torrens Council approved a two-year lease of Thebarton Oval to the SA Baseball League earlier this month, stipulating a $56,000 rental and maintenance fee be paid over the period, plus 20 per cent of leasing revenue.

Mr Ginos said his club offered to pay an annual rental of $35,000 in advance and was prepared to commit to a 21-year lease.

When the arrangements with the SA Baseball League were made public, rate payers raised objections.

"The matter is up for review," Mr Ginos said. "The procedure is under question because leasing the ground to baseball would restrict the use of the facility to one tenant during the summer."

Mr Haralampopoulos agreed that Olympic FC's aim is to make Thebarton Oval a "Multi-function facility and not reduce it to mono usage."

The West Torrens Eagles have used Thebarton Oval as an alternative training ground during their season.

"We have plans to upgrade the lighting to a standard that will enable us to play Premier League games there at night," Mr Haralampopoulos said.

Olympic FC, under the coaching expertise of former Australian international Branko Milosevic, is gearing towards a successful summer and winter season with top level silver wear the aim.

FALCONS NOT "ILLEGAL"

State League club, Enfield City Soccer Club has been accused of "illegally" leasing council-owned property to Premier League club the North Eastern Metro Stars.

According to an article in the Standard Messenger newspaper, Enfield City billed Metro Stars $8000 for 11 Saturday home games at the facility, without consulting the Port Adelaide Enfield Council committee.

Metro Stars vacated their TK Shutter Reserve complex at Klemzig, because it did not confirm to SA Soccer Federation requirements for Premier League clubs.

The Enfield Falcons pays the council $800 in rates and lease fees. The council's community development director Mark Withers was reported as saying, "The council administration has worked very hard to try to stamp our the practice of an incumbent club hiring council's facilities to another club.

"These agreements are illegal and deceitful and bypass council's authority in this matter," Mr Withers reportedly said.

Enfield City secretary Antoinette Cristarella defended the accusation, saying, "We did not sub-let to Metro Stars, we hired our facilities to them and we did all the work there when they played at Rushworth Reserve.

Branko Milosevic: Coach of Adelaide Olympic FC.

"Metro Stars used our goal-nets, our barbecue and canteen facilities each time they played there.

"Our people opened the club-rooms for Metro Stars and we did all the cleaning and maintenance when they left, including cleaning the showers and change rooms," she said.

"As far as we were concerned, each time we hired our ground, club-rooms and facilities we used the same procedures we would if we were catering for a wedding."

The Enfield City Soccer Club built the Anson Street club-rooms and mortgaged the building for $30,000 in 1970.

The building became freehold in 1992. The Falcons recently received a $3000 grant from the Premier's Community fund to upgrade the lighting at the Blair Athol ground.

They then sought further monentary assistance from the Council to complete the project.

The Council and the club are hoping for an amicable conclusion to the problem because both parties are acutely aware of the immense benefit the club holds towards the sporting development of the district's youthful population.

2002 SUMMER SERIES

Premier League champions the Blue Eagles and Cumberland Foxes will kick-off the 2002 Summer Series at the Marden Complex on Saturday, January 19.

Sharing the opening day Group A limelight will be newly promoted State League champion Birkalla when they take on Cobras at Camden.

Meanwhile, Group B will lead off with White City taking on Adelaide City at Woodille West, while Hills Hawks oppose Raiders at Gepps Cross.

First up for Group E on day one are promoted Para Hills against Metro Stars at TK Shutter Reserve and Modbury Jets versus Croydon Kings at Golden Grove.

The full draw:

ROUND 1, January 19.

Group A: Blue Eagles v Cumberland (Marden); Birkalla v Cobras (Camden).

Group B: White City v Adelaide City (Woodville West); Raiders v Hills Hawks (Gepps Cross).

Group E: Para Hills v Metro Stars (TK Shutter Reserve); Modbury Jets v Croydon Kings (Golden Grove).

January 21: Group C: Noarlunga United v Pirates (Hindmarsh Stadium); Playford Patriots v Olympic FC (Hindmarsh Stadium).

ROUND 2, February 2.

Group A: Cumberland v Birkalla (Camden); Cobras v Blue Eagles (Marden).

Group C: Pirates v Playford (John Hart Reserve); Olympic FC v Noarlunga (Wilf Taylor)

Group D: Campbelltown v Panthers (Newton Sports Field); Western Strikers v Enfield (Rushworth Reserve).

Group E: Metro Stars v Modbury (TK Shutter); Croydon Kings v Para Hills (Polonia Reserve).

January 30

Group B: White City v Raiders (Hindmarsh Stadium); Adelaide City v Hills Hawks (Hindmarsh Stadium).

ROUND 3: February 9:

Group B: Adelaide City v Raiders (Gepps Cross); Hills Hawks v White City (Woodville West).

Group C: Noarlunga v Playford (Wilf Taylor); Pirates v Olympic FC (John Hart).

Group D: Enfield Falcons v Panthers (Rushworth Reserve); Campbelltown v Western Strikers (Newton).

February 11

Group A: Blue Eagles v Birkalla (Hindmarsh Stadium); Cumberland v Cobras (Hindmarsh Stadium).

February 13

Group E: Para Hills v Modbury (Hindmarsh Stadium); Metro Stars v Croydon Kings (Hindmarsh Stadium).

QUARTER-FINALS

February 18: Hindmarsh Stadium 6pm and 8pm

February 20: Hindmarsh Stadium 6pm and 8pm

SEMI-FINALS

February 27: Hindmarsh Stadium 6pm and 8pm

GRAND FINAL

THIRD PLACE PLAY-OFF

March 2: Hindmarsh Stadium 6pm and 8pm

Allan Crisp can be heard on the 5RPH (1197AM) Marshall Thompson Homes/Pacific Real Estate Breakfast Soccer Show each Tuesday from 7am-9am, along with former Australian international and Adelaide City coach John Perin, Peter Millar, The Advertiser soccer writer Meno Toutsidis and producer Robbie Popplestone of Channel 10.

Tuesday's program will feature a comprehensive wrap of yesterday's Australia-Uruguay World Cup second leg qualifier.

Perin and Crisp return on Sundays for the 5RPH SOS (Soccer On Sunday) show from 8.30am-9.30am to present the latest news, views, interviews and scores from home and abroad.

NSW'S Pacific team unveiled

Leo Carle: Winter League best-player, left with the NSW side, last week.

NSW State coach Brian Brown announced his 18-man State squad for the three-game tour of New Caledonia before their departure, last week.

With three matches in six days it will be a tough assignment for the State side, which beat Victoria and lost to Queensland last season, but coach Brian Brown is confident the players he has selected can do the job. "It's a real honour to be the State coach and I have picked a side which I believe should do very well," said Brown.

"The team looks to be a little heavy on attacking players but with three games in six days all the boys will get a start in at least one game and that gives me some cover in a number of the key positions."

While the squad looks very similar to the one that lost to Queensland last season, Brown has drafted in a couple of new faces, among them Penrith midfielder Jason Sciberras. As part of a resurgent Panthers outfit, Sciberras is in the middle of a purple patch in form and his selection is well justified according to club spokesman Mike Starr.

"Sciberras is in his fifth year with the club and he has become an instrumental player in the Panthers main squad," said a clearly delighted Starr.

"He is an explosive runner and has some great attacking qualities and I have no doubts he will make the step up." Sciberras himself can hardly believe it, going from the Penrith youth side a few seasons ago to representing the State at senior level.

"I was totally shocked when I got the call," said Sciberras. "It's something I really wasn't expecting, but I am really looking forward to the trip and doing my very best." Brown has also elected to go with Coasties defender Dane Hokin and Eagles utility Geoff Howarth both of whom are also in great touch.

Winter Super League player of the year Leo Carle will also make the trip as will White Eagles midfielder John Kyriazopoulos who backs up after making his State debut last season. "To represent your State is a terrific honour," said Kyriazopoulos, "and to be amongst a side which contains so much talent will be a big personal highlight in my football career."

The team had one session together before they left for New Caledonia on Wednesday 21 November, with the coach expected to have the squad on the training park as soon as possible.

"I'll try and get the side to have a light run as soon as we get there in order to get the boys acclimatized to the heat and the style of their football pitches," said Brown.

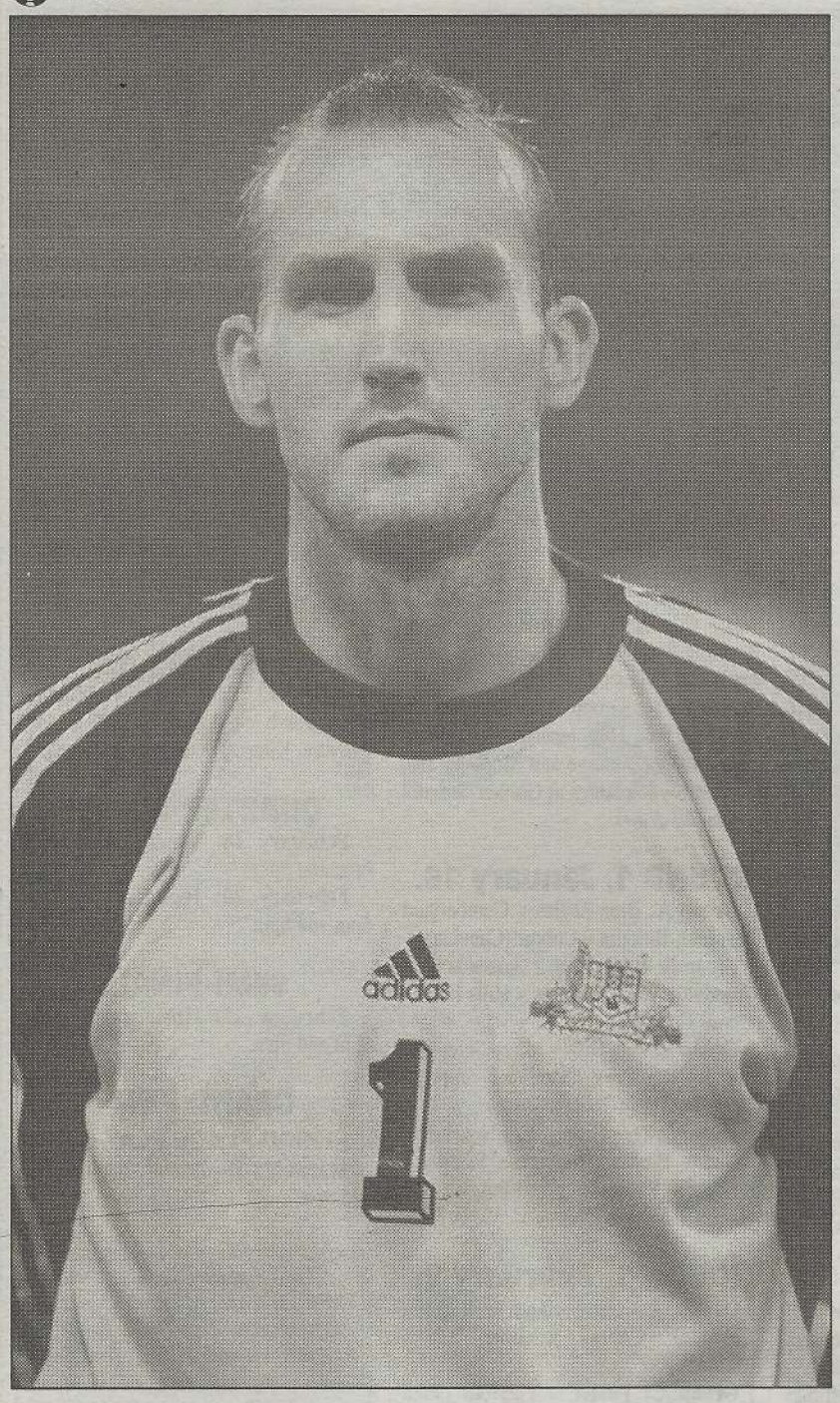
"The locals I expect to be big, strong and aggressive and I'll have a chat with Tony Pezzano before I go as Tony led the First Division Select side on a trip over there a couple of seasons ago, just to gauge his opinions on what we can expect. But I am under no illusions. It's going to be tough, but I believe we have a strong squad that can match it with them."

New Caledonia has long been a friend of New South Wales' football with the relationship going back to the 1960s. The most famous game between the two combatants was in 1965 when the NSW side, coached by Tiko Jelisavcic and having the likes of Stan Ackerley, Manfred Schaefer and Johnny Warren was defeated on home turf 4-2.

Since then there has been a healthy relationship between the two bodies, with the last meeting between the two sides being in 1999 when former Socceroo Tony Pezzano led a NSW side composed of First Division players over to Noumea for a two-game series. While NSW won two games 2-1 and 2-0, the closeness of the margin indicates they will be no easy-beats and we'll all have our fingers and toes crossed that Brian Brown and his troops can bring home the bacon.

The full squad is: John Crawley, Damien Foxe, David Reid, Damon Langan and Naoki Imaya (Blacktown City), Darren Moore, Dane Hokin and Damien Smith (Central Coast), Devrim Huseyin, John Kyriazopoulos and Vuko Tomasevic (Bonnyrigg White Eagles), Michael Galluzzo, James Stubbs-Mills (Leichhardt Tigers) Jason Sciberras (Penrith Panthers) Danial Cummins, Geoff Howarth (Parramatta Eagles) Leo Carle and Marc Hoenselaars (Fairfield Bulls).

Coach: Brian Brown (Blacktown City Demons); **Assistant Coach:** Ken Schembri (Blacktown City Demons); **Head of Delegation:** Peter Gray (NSWSF President); **Official:** George Jackson (Bankstown City Lions); **Physiotherapist:** David Hughes



Mark Schwarzer: "I want to play at the highest level."

Schwarzer's rumble scares Boro

English side, Middlesbrough manager Steve McClaren was forced last week to diffuse reports that he may soon lose his first-choice goalie, after Mark Schwarzer, also Australia's number one choice between the posts, indicated he may quit the English premiership club.

In an interview to Australian media last week before flying out to Montevideo with the rest of the Australian squad, the Australian international said: "I'm not going to lie and say I'm completely happy where I am.

"I want to play at the highest level I possibly can and that means playing in European competition regularly."

Schwarzer who is contracted to the English Midlands club until 2004, was recently-linked with top side, Arsenal last season. Already now, Arsenal might once again be forced to renew their interest in Schwarzer following a goalkeeping crisis at the Gunners, which has seen regulars David Seaman and Richard Wright sidelined with injury. The London-based side were forced to give a maiden debut to 21-year-old third-choice goalie, Stuart Taylor in last Sunday's league cracker against champions, Manchester United at Highbury.

McClaren however was forced to declare last week, "We are pleased the hear Mark expressing a desire to play European football - we like players with ambition.

"Everyone here at Middlesbrough is striving towards the goal of European football and we need players of the calibre of Mark Schwarzer to achieve this aim."

Schwarzer has helped perennial-strugglers, Middlesbrough climb back to a respectable 14th position on the premiership ladder after a poor start to the season which left them in relegation waters.

The big Aussie shot-stopper, now aged 29, might however have grown frustrated with the club's limited ambitions and may now be aiming for a move in a bid to taste European action before it is too late.

Steve McLaren.

Everton eyes Vidmar

Aussie international Tony Vidmar has attracted the interest of his former boss, Walter Smith, who last weekend indicated he could raid his former club Rangers, for the services of frustrated defender.

Smith, now the manager of English premiership side, Everton, has monitored developments at the Scottish giants since last month, when the Socceroos' star revealed his desire to leave Ibrox after falling out of favour under Dutch boss Dick Advocaat.

Vidmar, who has been central to Australia's quest for a World Cup ticket, will undoubtedly be looking forward to thrashing-out his future when he returns from international duty this week.

32 year-old Vidmar was at the heart of the Australian defence in Uruguay over the weekend, where they clashed with the South Americans the second leg of their World Cup play-off clash to determine the final qualifiers for next summer's event.

Vidmar is eager for first team action in order to make Aussie coach, Frank Farina's side to Japan and South Korea, so he can further his chances of making his squad for the Far East.

Smith is no stranger to Vidmar as it was he who signed him for Rangers in June 1997.

200 fans flock to Bob Jane Stadium

Over 200 fanatical South Melbourne and Socceroo supporters watched the World Cup Qualifier live from Montevideo, Uruguay on the big screen at Bob Jane Stadium, Albert Park, early Monday morning.

The game which kicked-off at 6:00am (AEST) in the wee-hours of Melbourne, provided the ideal opportunity for supporters to gather together, have some breakfast and watch the all-important match before heading-off to work.

The venue had ample free parking and plenty of tables and chairs which were all especially handy for people heading into the city centre to work.

The gathering of supporters was also provided a good chance for mediamen to experience and capture the agony and ecstasy of Aussie supporters as the Socceroos attempted to rewrite history and qualify for the World Cup finals for the first time since 1974.

Ecstatic fans who turned up to cheer the Socceroos at MCG, also watched yesterday's decider at the Bob Jane Stadium.

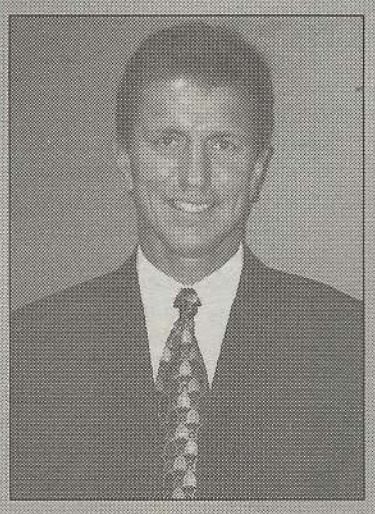
MILOVANOVIC DOWNPLAYS IN-FORM AIS

By Graham Cooke

After a season spent struggling at the foot of the National Youth League, The ACT Academy of Sport has made a much better start to this campaign with three wins and three losses from their first six games.

However, these are not statistics that particularly interest coach Mike Milovanovic.

He is much more enthusiastic about another series of facts. "We have provided three players to the current Australian Institute of Sport squad from last season, and that is the reason the academy exists, not necessarily to win games," he said.



Mike Milovanovic

Midfielder Matt Anstey, wing back Ian Waldon and centre-midfielder Steve Arnot are turning out for the AIS, something of a contrast from the days when it was an event to get one Canberra player in the elite squad "and not a bad result from a relatively small player base".

He agreed last year's crop of 15 and 16-year-olds playing in an under-18s National Youth League competition were "lambs to the slaughter".

"Apart from the transfers to the AIS, we have much the same squad, but because the league is an under-19 competition this year, so has almost everyone else," he said.

"But you can see what a difference a season's experience and, hopefully, good coaching does for them."

The highlight came recently with a 5-1 win over newcomer Brisbane Toro. Other outstanding results included a groundbreaking 1-0 win over Marconi Youth – and a similar result against the NSW Institute of Sport.

"The way things are going I would not be at all surprised to see a few more of our squad end up at the AIS," Milovanovic said.

Sydney Utd host Asanovic, Boban

After a lengthy delay, Croatian international Aljosa Asanovic will finally wear a Sydney United shirt but unfortunately for the Club it will be only for two games, before he retires completely and hangs his boots.

Zvonimir Boban: Coming to Sydney United as a guest.

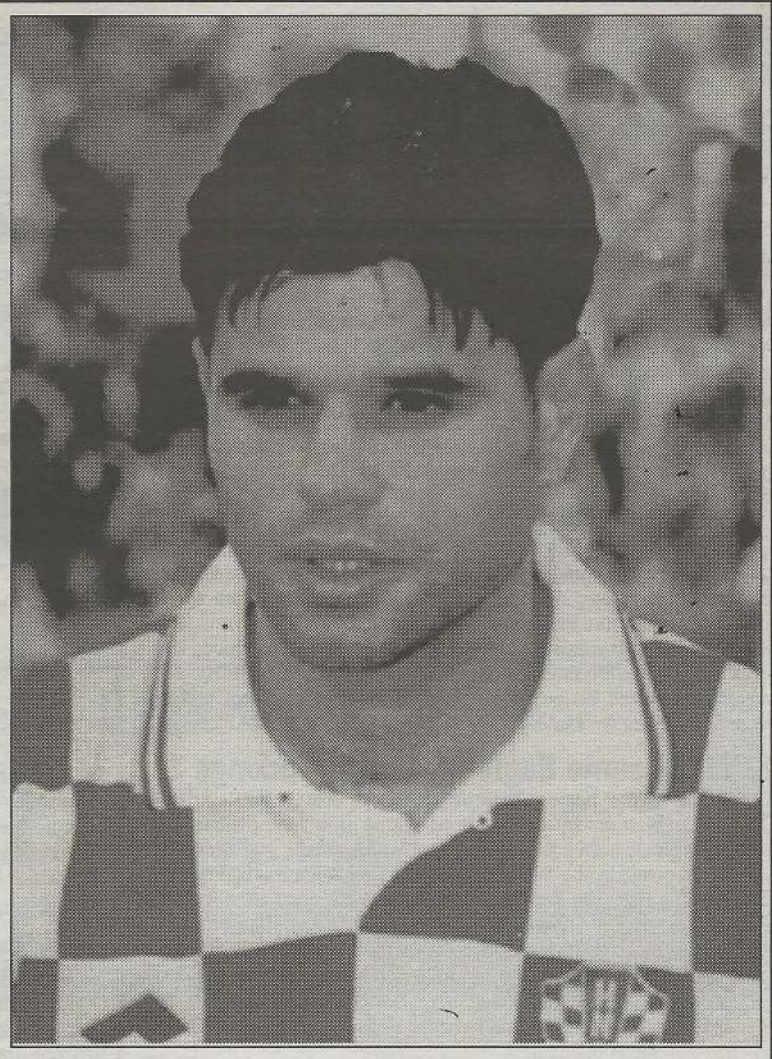
Asanaovic will arrive in Sydney on Wednesday, November 28th and will file-out for United against Melbourne Knights on December 2nd while his last-ever game will be against Parramatta Power at the United Sports Centre on December 16th.

However, another former Croatian international, Zvonimir Boban will also be a special guest of the club in the game against the Knights.

Asanovic's decision to appear in only two matches was quite disappointing for Sydney United after his just-ended loan spell with Hajduk Split. Nonetheless, the club remains proud that he chose Sydney United as the place to end his glorious playing career.

Both legendary players will be special guests at a number of Club functions and will participate in a once-in-a-lifetime coaching clinic organised for all interested juniors.

Zvonimir Boban, a much accomplished ex-international and AC Milan superstar is already in the country and has attended a number of functions in Melbourne including the November 20, World Cup qualifier between Australia and Uruguay.



Aljosa Asanovic: Agreed to a two match appearance for Sydney United.

Veterans' reunion amidst World Cup showdown

By Bert van Bedaf

Soccer Canberra's coaching and development officer, Tony LUNCHTIME on November 20, before that momentous evening, when Australia beat Uruguay 1-0 at the MCG, an inaugural reunion of past Socceroos took place at a St Kilda hotel spanning 50 years of Australian soccer history.

It came at the time the home result was still unknown and the return leg still had to be played five days later in Montevideo to determine which of the two nations would clinch the last spot at the World Cup finals in Japan and South Korea next year.

Goalkeeper George Penzo was there, together with his contemporary Pepe Cubero, who arrived in Australia in the early 1950s and had represented Australia in the years after the 1956 Melbourne Olympics.

Penzo, known as the 'Black Cat', migrated from Italy. He played for Brunswick Juventus in 1956 and 1957. Spanish-born Cubero, a forward, played for Footscray Just from 1956 to 1957, for Juventus until 1959 and for Sunshine George Cross until 1961.

They were the seeds from which the current crop of European-based Socceroos, worth a combined multi-million dollar fortune, had sprung. With both past and present players, the maturation of the Socceroos had come full circle.

Sprinkled through the crowd were also Mehmet Durakovic and Paul Trimboli, both still playing for South Melbourne in the national league.

And former South legends Mike Petersen (ex-player, ex-coach) and Alan Davidson, inducted in soccer's Hall of Fame this year, as well as Paul Wade, legendary Socceroos captain and now Channel Seven soccer commentator.

And former Socceroos goal keeper Jeff Olver, ex-Bulleen and presently assistant coach at South Melbourne, as well as David Mitchell, now coach of Parramatta Power.

There was Gary Cole, experienced Victorian Premier League coach, appointed for next season at Altona Magic, and Ken Murphy, also inducted in the Hall of Fame, a 1986 World Cup campaigner and retired coach of Fawkner.

Also in the crowd was former Preston player Andrew Zinni and retired Bulleen forward Warren Spink. Australia's World Cup 1974 forward Peter Ollerton soaked up the atmosphere.

Coach of Victorian Premier League champion Heidelberg, Ollerton was one of a few to have experienced the success of making the World Cup finals, as was 'keeper Jack Reilly also among the gathered.

Ray Baartz was there. He wasn't present at 1974, but helped Australia get there. He scored the opening goal against Uruguay in a friendly that year in Sydney and was hit on the back of the head, which ended his career.

Ollerton scored the second goal against the South Americans in Australia's memorable 2-0 win.

There was World Cup coach Rale Rasic, who had brought the 1974 plague along that everyone was invited to touch to feel the magic of the world code.

Peter Ollerton: Ex-International present at the reunion.

Billy Vojtek was in the crowd. Vojtek, played for Australia from 1967 to 1974, in two World Cup campaigns. His name is also etched in the walls of the Hall of Fame. He still is a legend at the Melbourne Knights. His son Damian Vojtek plays for Heidelberg.

Alex Tobin spoke about this inaugural reunion "of players from all eras and generations".

A longstanding former Socceroos captain and World Cup campaigner, Tobin bowed out after the Iran game at the MCG in 1997. He still captains Parramatta Power in the national league.

The reunion, of which more are to follow, has been the brainchild of Soccer Australia and the players union, the Professional Footballers Association.

Soccer Australia chairman Ian Knop paid tribute to Australia's soccer's heroes, past and present, who galvanised a significant proportion of the population behind a sport that had its roots in the migrant experience.

It is only because of those players of yesteryear that today's crop of professional footballers has gone on to become world class players, capable of taking on and drawing 1-1 with world champion France only days earlier.

"You are their heroes," Knop told the former greats with reference to the current stars.

"They are here today (playing for Australia and in top European competitions) because of you and I want you to hold that dear to your hearts. This reunion is about remembering our heritage and what we've learned from it," he said.

Knop pointed out Australian soccer belonged to a world family, but it needed to assert its potential in Australia.

"We are part of the greatest game on the planet. We are it. We are the game that matters. Other codes are starting to feel the power of our game," Knop said.

Certainly, the popularity of soccer at the highest level is unparalleled.

Channel Seven's ratings for the France and Uruguay games were the highest in soccer history. Nearly three million viewers watched Australia beat Uruguay. Yet, the figures still need to be translated into success for the National Soccer League, which rates poorly.

But the afternoon was about realising the richness of Australia's soccer history and the contribution that had been made by so many individuals, officials, coaches and players over nearly five decades.

The standard is what Rale Rasic and his men achieved in 1974, playing in the World Cup finals. "The dream had come true," Baartz recalled the moment.

"We won't have that kind of respect (of 1974) unless we qualify and if we don't, we have four more years of hard work," Knop summed up Australia's soccer dilemma.

Knop's words proved prophetic. Uruguay won 3-0 in Montevideo and 3-1 on aggregate to qualify for next year's World Cup, while Australia was once more sent into the wilderness for another four years.

Ian Knop: "We have four more years of hardwork."

National Youth League

By Roy Hay

Melbourne Knights Youth 2 Preston Lions 2

Melbourne Knights was surprised for the second week in a row when Preston Lions fought back from a two-nil deficit to draw two all at Knights Stadium on Saturday. Tom Razov scored in 35 minutes and again two minutes after the interval to the put the Knights in what should have been a winning position, but then the young Lions clawed their way back with a goal by Robert Dolevski in xx minutes. With three minutes to go the Knights conceded a penalty and Uguz Ali scored the equaliser. It was a forgettable game from the Knights' point of view with only Razov playing to his potential.

Green Gully 1 Bulleen Zebras 1

Green Gully and Bulleen Zebras shared the points in a one-all draw in Gully's first home game of the season. Bulleen missed a penalty and numerous other chances in the first half and it was the home team which took the lead also from the spot in 58 minutes through Dejan Vasic. The Zebras had lots of possession, but found the Gully in obdurate mood and it was not till the 78th minute that Mirza Pedic found an equalizer. Joe Damiano celebrated his eighteenth birthday with an excellent performance considering the amount of sleep he had the night before.

Sth Melbourne Eagles 2 Albury Wodonga 1

South Melbourne Eagles Academy was just able to beat Albury Wodonga Warriors by two goals to one at Bob Jane Stadium on Sunday. The home team got the perfect start with a penalty goal after only two minutes converted by Steve Esposito, but Carl Augustin reports it all fell away after that. The Warriors deserved their equalizer after 36 minutes when striker Kevin Pretty found himself on the end of an excellent move and one on one with the keeper. He put the ball away cleanly. In the second half Chris Mitchell had a header which hit the inside of the post and rebounded to the Eagles keeper. Straight away the Eagles went up the other end to grab what turned out to be the decisive goal through David Del Grosso in the 80th minute.

South Melbourne Institute v Melbourne Knights Academy
(Played on Monday night, Bob Jane Stadium at 7 pm)

NORTHERN DIVISION

ROUND 8 RESULTS

Northern Spirit Youth *(A. Griffiths 52', Catanzaro 69', Burgess 75' pen, Jenke 81')*	4	**NSWIS** *(Cardozo 20')*	1
Marconi Stallions Colts	0	**ACTAS** *(Cattanach 63', Ivanic 72')*	2

Olympic Sharks Youth v Wollongong Wolves Youth
(Match Postponed – Match Details to be Advised)

Parramatta Power Youth *(Own goal 44')*	1	**Marconi Stallions Youth** *(Mengi 45', Trajcevski 83')*	2
Sydney United Colts *(Simic 60')*	1	**Newcastle United Youth** *(Johnson 12', Majurovski 18', Wheelhouse 35')*	3
Brisbane Toro *(Rose 74')*	1	**Sydney United Youth** *(Santalab 5'pen 13' 42', Orlovic 58' pen)*	4

ROUND 8 LADDER

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
AIS	**7**	**7**	**0**	**0**	**24**	**3**	**21**
Sydney United Youth	8	6	1	1	19	4	19
Parramatta Power Youth	8	5	0	3	25	11	15
Marconi Stallions Youth	8	5	0	3	15	8	15
Wollongong Wolves Youth	7	5	0	2	14	10	1
Newcastle United Youth	8	5	0	3	13	12	15
ACTAS	7	4	0	3	13	13	12
QAS	7	3	2	2	13	11	11
NSWIS	8	3	0	5	9	16	9
Northern Spirit Youth	8	2	2	4	13	16	8
Olympic Sharks Youth	6	1	2	3	5	10	5
Sydney United Colts	9	1	2	6	7	25	5
Brisbane Toro	7	1	0	6	8	25	3
Marconi Stallions Colts	8	0	1	7	4	18	1

SOUTHERN DIVISION

ROUND 6 RESULTS

Melbourne Knights Youth *(Tomislav Razov 2)*	2	**Preston Lions** *(Robert Dolevski, Uguz Ali)*	2
Green Gully *(Dejan Vasic)*	1	**Bulleen Zebras** *(Mirza Pedic)*	1
South Melbourne Eagles *(Steve Esposito, David Del Grosso)*	2	**Albury Wodonga** *(Kevin Pretty)*	1

South Melbourne Institute v Melbourne Knights Academy
(Bob Jane Stadium, 7 pm)

LEAGUE LADDER RD 6

TEAM	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
South Melbourne Institute	**5**	**4**	**1**	**0**	**30**	**4**	**13**
South Melbourne Eagles Academy	5	4	0	1	13	8	12
Bulleen Zebras	5	3	1	1	14	12	10
Albury Wodonga	5	2	1	2	8	8	7
Melbourne Knights Youth	5	1	3	1	4	5	6
Melbourne Knights Academy	5	1	2	2	7	4	5
Green Gully	6	1	1	4	2	13	4
Preston Lions	6	0	1	5	4	28	1

ROUND 7 FIXTURES

South Melbourne Eagles v Melbourne Knights Youth
(Keilor Park Reserve, 5 pm)
South Melbourne Inst. v Albury Wodonga
(Bob Jane Stadium, 3.30 pm)
Bulleen Zebras v Melbourne Knights Academy *(Veneto Club, 4 pm)*
Preston Lions v Green Gully *(BT Connor Reserve, 5 pm)*

SOCCER WOMAN BY JANENE MAR

WNSL 2001/02 ROUND FOUR

NSW Sapphires have bolted to a five-point lead after both equal second-placed teams lost in last weekend's WNSL Round Four action.

SAPPHIRES TOO STRONG ON GOAL

NSW SAPPHIRES 4 (Heather Garriock 12m, Alicia Cavanagh 15m, Lisa Warrener 45m, Taryn Rockall 75m) defeated **CANBERRA ECLIPSE 1** (Caitlin Munoz 31m) at West Belconnen Leagues Club, Canberra

NSW Sapphires defeated Canberra Eclipse 4-1 on Sunday in Canberra to quash the Eclipse's undefeated run and hopes of an upset win to take over the lead. However, the game was a lot closer than the scoreline suggests and play see-sawed throughout the entertaining contest.

Canberra were without in-form defender Bridgette Starr for the big clash, serving a one-match suspension. Eclipse have a quality midfield and defence, but without out-and-out strikers, it was always going to be a tough job scoring more than the star-studded NSW who have been putting away the goals with ease. However, this was the Blues' toughest opponent yet after three relatively easy games, and maybe they would be overconfident after their 10-0 thrashing the previous week over the Vics. The Sapphires came out firing immediately from the opening whistle with two good chances. They soon took the lead at the 12th minute, an unmarked Heather Garriock placing her low angled shot past the keeper. NSW went two ahead just three minutes later, a Kelly Golebiowski cross from the left finding Neisha Klessattel deep at the far post, who headed back square to league top scorer Alicia Cavanagh who finished off the neat move with a header.

Canberra defender Simone Borucinski cleared another Cavanagh strike off the goal-line, and this seemed to spark a strong Canberra period of play. Eclipse pulled a goal back six minutes later when Caitlin Munoz beat a hesitant keeper to a long diagonal ball from Peita-Claire Hepperlin and headed home. NSW then lifted again and scored their third on the stroke of half-time, Lisa Warrener helping over the line a Taryn Rockall curling corner kick.

Midway into the second half, Eclipse surged back into attack, led by the livewire efforts of Caitlin Munoz who was twice very unlucky not to score, first after chasing down a backpass to the keeper and her shot cleared off the line, then a top ball from Sacha Wainwright was sent skywards over the bar. Then, against the run of play, NSW were awarded a penalty for a handball in the box and Taryn Rockall's conversion put the game beyond Canberra's reach.

Alicia Ferguson: Helped the Sapphires to victory over Canberra Eclipse.

Eclipse - Read, Borucinski, Taylor, Davies, P Hepperlin, Wainwright, Karp, Wilson,Thomson, David (Staniforth 72), Munoz (Lockhart 80).

Sapphires - Kell (Pichon 85), Tann-Darby, Warrener (Gilbert 85), Slatyer (Collins 72), Rockall, Garriock, Peters, Carney, Klessattel (McCallum 56), Golebiowski, Cavanagh (Cannuli 81).

SENSATION JOIN THE RACE

ADELAIDE SENSATION 1 (Cheryl Salisbury 61m) defeated **QUEENSLAND STING 0** at Camden Sports Complex, Adelaide

With the real race now being for second place, Adelaide Sensation scored a most valuable 1-0 upset win over defending champions Queensland Sting on Sunday, ending the Maroons' unbeaten run. More significantly, the three points takes Sensation to within one point of second spot.

The Sting enjoyed a good percentage of possession but weren't able to convert that into sufficient danger on the opposition goal, still trying to work out a successful midfield combination after the loss of Bryony Duus and Kim Revell through long-term injury. Sensation however had less of the ball, but still looked likely to score.

The best chances in the first half came when Adelaide's Cheryl Salisbury shot on the quarter-hour mark, but the keeper was equal to the challenge. Three minutes later, Sting's Zoe Nolan struck but hit the post. Sensation's Chichi May tried to repeat her effort of last week, but her 30 metre curling freekick was tipped over by keeper Claire Nichols. Salisbury was on the end of another freekick but again Nichols kept it out. Shortly before the break, a one-two play between Elissia Canham and Nolan resulted in a dig by Natalie Thomas but it trickled just wide.

The deadlock was broken on the hour when a Sensation corner from Christina Papageorgiou was flicked on by Stacey Stocco which the keeper could only parry upwards, allowing Salisbury to touch it in over the goal-line. Lana Harch then tried to go solo for an equaliser for Queensland, taking the ball at halfway and weaving past three defenders, but her shot flew wide.

Adelaide's Lisa De Vanna was put through for a good chance, but opted on the more difficult choice of trying to chip the keeper, without success. run for the rest of the game came to no avail and their undefeated record was broken. Queensland kept the ball for the remainder of play but were unable to find their way to goal.

Sensation - Trimboli, Vozzo, May, Burgess, Winn, Madden, Salisbury, Stocco, Papageorgiou, De Vanna, Augimeri.

Sting - Nichols, Nolan (Hohnke 89), Bartlett, Grant, Reuter, McShea, Canham (Cusack 72), Ferguson, Tramacchi (Mitchell 75), Harch, Thomas.

CELLAR DWELLARS SHARE POINTS

VICTORIA VISION 2 (Katrina Smith 47m, Leigh Terek 81m) drew with **NORTHERN NSW PRIDE 2** (Lauren Colthorpe 8m, Hayley Crawford 50m) at Kingston Heath Soccer Complex, Melbourne

With a player sent off in the first half, Northern NSW Pride held on to draw 2-2 against Victoria Vision in Saturday's clash between the two bottom-placed teams.

Both sides in search of their first point for the season made for an emotion-charged clash in Melbourne, the home side needing to refocus after a demoralising 10-0 defeat last week, and Northern without their suspended captain and playmaker Amber Neilson.

The strong wind certainly played its part in the flow of the game, and Northern, with the wind in the first half, took the early advantage. A Pride corner kick resulted in a goalmouth scramble and Lauren Colthorpe managed to stick the ball home from close range for her first ever WNSL goal.

Play was fairly even throughout the rest of the first half however, both teams with chances although nothing clear cut. Even after Rose Dunne's ejection on the half-hour mark for an off the ball incident, Northern still held their own and produced some constructive play.

Vision welcomed the wind advantage after the break and immediately went on the attack. They were rewarded two minutes after the restart with a well-struck 30 metre attempt from Katrina Smith which flew over the keeper's head. The goal was Victoria's first for the season and Smith's first in this her rookie season.

Northern regained the lead just three minutes later on the break, Hayley Crawford nailing her strike from 15 metres. Victoria then held the upper hand for the remainder, creating several opportunities but unable to hit the target. Selin Kuralay came closest when released by a Smith through ball, but her 25 metre drive hit the post and went out. Another long range effort from Smith flew just over the crossbar. Finally, with nine minutes to go, Vision drew back level with a neat build-up from the back finished by Leigh Terek with a fantastic rocket from 35 metres high into the back of the net.

Vision - Barbieri, Bisby, Lamb (Groenewald 27), McEvoy, Minstrell, Humble (Angelucci 46), Digiammarco, Smith, L Kapusta, Terek, Kuralay.

Pride - Carpenter (Betteridge 51), Ingles, Alley (Wilson 70), Attwill, Stevens, Colthorpe (Aimie Neilson 60), Dunne, McMinn, Shepherd, Gill (Tristram 55), Crawford.

	P	W	L	D	F	A	Pts
NSW SAPPHIRES	**4**	**4**	**-**	**-**	**21**	**2**	**12**
QUEENSLAND STING	4	2	1	1	6	3	7
CANBERRA ECLIPSE	4	2	1	1	5	5	7
ADELAIDE SENSATION	4	2	-	2	4	4	6
NORTHERN NSW PRIDE	4	-	1	3	5	1	1
VICTORIA VISION	4	-	1	3	2	15	1

ROUND 5 FIXTURES

Sat 1 Dec - Victoria Vision v Adelaide Sensation
2.00pm, Kingston Heath Soccer Complex
Sat 1 Dec - Queensland Sting v NSW Sapphires
2.45pm, Ballymore (tbc)
Sun 2 Dec - Northern NSW Pride v Canberra Eclipse
11.00am, Weston Park

LEADING SCORERS

6	**Alicia CAVANAGH**	**NSW Sapphires**
4	Kelly GOLEBIOWSKI	NSW Sapphires
3	Katie GILL	Northern NSW Pride
3	Heather GARRIOCK	NSW Sapphires
3	Lisa WARRENER	NSW Sapphires
2	Alicia FERGUSON	Queensland Sting
2	Sacha WAINWRIGHT	Canberra Eclipse
2	Lisa DE VANNA	Adelaide Sensation
2	Caitlin MUNOZ	Canberra Eclipse
2	Taryn ROCKALL	NSW Sapphires

KNIGHTS SIGN-ON DE JESUS

By Bert van Bedaf

The Melbourne Knights will travel to Sydney United on Sunday not only bolstered by a gutsy 2-1 win over the Football Kingz last Friday night but also by the signing of striker Ivo De Jesus last week.

A former Olympic Shark, De Jesus saw his NSL career cut short when former successive clubs Carlton and Canberra Cosmos bit the national league dust, having returned to Australia from a stint in Portugal.

He trialed with South Melbourne only a few weeks ago but could not agree terms. He's happy to resurrect his career at the Knights, who are desperate for a quality striker in addition to forwards Toto Da Costa, Joe Tricarico and Joel Porter.

Knights captain-coach Andrew Marth substituted Tricarico late in the second half against the Kingz and is yet to see Porter find the back of the net.

Da Costa showed his class with a clever back-heeler for the winning goal against the Kingz, but he also hasn't totally set the Knights alight.

Without a doubt the win (against the Kingz) came as a relief for us and especially getting Toto on the scoresheet. He's our striker and we rely on him getting ten to 15 goals in the year," Marth said afterwards.

With De Jesus sitting next him, Marth turned to his gun signing ahead of rival South Melbourne.

We signed Ivo de Jesus and we're looking towards him scoring goals for us this year," Marth said.

It's a relief that I have been able to sign with a club," De Jesus commented, but otherwise knows he's yet to prove himself at Somers St.

However, his signing has given Marth a lot more options in attack.

Meanwhile, at South Melbourne coach Eddie Krncevic remained tight-lipped about the future of experienced defender Fausto De Amicis, who played in the youth team last Sunday.

De Amicis walked out on the club the previous week because he'd been overlooked for the captaincy in favor of Steve Panopoulos.

Although there's been a rethink on De Amicis's part, Krncevic did not put him straight back into the first team that is starved of senior players. The two may settle their differences before South's home match against Adelaide City Force on Sunday.

This is all in-house and we like to keep it in-house," Krncevic said about the rift, which, of course, is not just "in-house" but affects the team's very public performance.

It's up to Fausto to work hard and he's in contention for next week, absolutely, otherwise he would not have played today (Sunday)," he said, foreshadowing a senior return on Sunday.

Ivo De Jesus - Now to lace boots for Melbourne Knights.

Tuggeranong hunts for new coach

By Graham Cooke

Tuggeranong United's management committee is expected to decide on a successor to coach Graham Plath in the next few days.

An interviewing panel, of which Plath was a part, is reported to have spoken to three short-listed candidates for the key position with the ACT Premiership club, and their recommendations now being considered by the full club committee. Plath was never a candidate for the job, having wanted to step down in mid-season, only to be persuaded to carry on after veteran first-team defender Peter Thompson agreed to share some of the responsibilities.

After a bright start, United struggled for most of the season with officials having to cope with a string of injuries. The club have an extensive junior base, however, and a driving force in the coaching ranks could well see them return to the glory days of the late 80s and early 90s when they won the premiership twice and the Federation Cup three times in the space of six seasons.

Wollongong News

By Otto Bader

Wolves on Character Building Mission — From the glory of previous seasons to the lowest position this year must result in re-structuring team morale, lifting players' spirits and experiencing character-building. That is the opinion of club captain Stuart Young who has been through the various stages of soccer fortunes - highs and lows.

Training sessions were difficult last week due to inclement weather conditions - the team was called together Monday - Tuesday morning - Wednesday and Thursday last week. Nevertheless the complete squad is full of expectations looking for a change in fortunes. Young striker Liam Austin has recovered from an ankle injury, pressing on to gain full fitness, waiting for this chance. Also, captain George Souris and Alex Castro are improving their fitness level. Coach Ron Corry has plenty of quality players ready for selection. The secret is to field the best possible side, gel them together and believe in success to win games. The first home win penutlimate Friday, gave the club confidence to carry on competing successfully.

After six games played, the table shows only 4 points = one win, one draw = between top six club Marconi on 8 points and the last position. Two wins in a row will dramatically change things for the Wolves, still capable of moving up the table. No easy games to come, however it is also not impossible to pick up points. A couple of free weekends are coming up for the Wolves. They are not favoured by the teams, just useful for curing niggling knocks and bruises. It is important to do well in the forthcoming matches to win back the fans, fill WIN Stadium. Nothing is healthier than success and winning games.

Youth Team in Two losses — The youngsters recorded two losses, despite having plenty of possession. Coach Eddie Tesoro now has the difficult task to lift team spirit. His job is not made easier with different over-age players coming in for match practice required by senior coach Ron Corry. The development of youth players is important for the senior team thus the Youth Grade coach has to experience with always changing team formations, never having a settled squad on the park. The results of the side have to be seen in that perspective.

Soccer Support for East Timor kids — A thank you letter has been received by the ISA from Sydney organiser for the collection of soccer utensils to assist impoverished East Timor youngsters, from Mr. Roy Welsby. He expressed his gratitude , being able to send several parcels of soccer equipment away. The children in East Timor will be able, once again, to enjoy their beloved game of soccer. Further pick-up dates have been set with December 4th and March 8th next year for more surplus items. Please do not hesitate to contact Roy Welsby on phone 02 96305820 or fax 02 96355723 if your club has any surplus shirts, shorts, balls or any other soccer things to be collected.

George Souris: Recovering fast from injury.

Illawarra Soccer Competition 2002 - Interesting, lively discussions have been at an increased level among the area's soccer people concerning the revamped competition for 2002. The Association endeavours to satisfy all members' expectations in respect to compete for the new soccer season. Naturally not every club is happy with the new format however, hopefully the majority of soccer clubs are able to see an advantage to play a 14-team ICU Premier League and a 15-team ICU First Division, both on a home-and-away basis. At least with these two divisions, all clubs have the same opportunity to progress with the aim of reaching a championship or being promoted if this format proves acceptable in future. In order to accommodate concerns by some or all clubs in both divisions the Association has called a special General Club Meeting on Tuesday, 4th December 7 pm at the Fraternity club, Fairy Meadow. The agenda is set as; (1) Clubs' input to make-up of season 2003 competitions and (2) clubs concern with any issue affecting them. Clubs are required to provide the administration office with new committee names and phone numbers since their AGM held this year, thus the records can be updated and also the annual handbook prepared.

Junior Soccer AGM at last week's annual general meeting the new committee for 2002 was elected. The 26-member clubs confirmed long-serving President Mrs. Florence Stephenson for another term - also Senior Vice President Mrs. Sheila Morris and Junior Vice President Mr. Jim Nolan as well as Treasurer Mr. John Munro and Competition Secretary Mr. David Ware. Other positions filled were Roo-Ball Convenor Mrs. Dawn Power - Publicity Officers Otto Bader and Mr. Ron Brindle - Judiciary Mr. Paul Heininger - Management Committee Messrs. G. Bemi, Phil Lidden and Phil Montgomery - Administration Officer Mrs. Joan Hudson - Patrons Messrs. D. Campbell, C. Glenholmes, R. Connor, B. Harrison, Fraternity Club, Illawarra Credit Union, Berkeley Sports and Social club, Wave FM Radio Station, George Harrison (Lord Mayor) - Referees Delegate Mr. Eddie Uitterlinden.

Local Soccer Clubs' Preparations - Several team coaches have called up their charges for once or twice a week light pre-season training. Champion Port Kembla has advertised Youth Grade trials. Wollongong Olympic with new coach Peter Willis invites all players to Brandon Park No. 2 for Wednesday nights. First division clubs Barbarians train at Barrack Heights Sports Field Mondays and Wednesdays with coach Roberto Hernandez. Shellharbour City with coach Barney King train once per week at Keith Bond Oval on Thursdays. Many more clubs will surely advertise their intentions soon.

Women s Soccer — Oak Flats' Susan Robertson has been made a Life Member of the Illawarra Women s Soccer Association being involved over 24 years playing for club and representative sides.

Wolves First Grade Womens team has a new head coach in Geoff Wilson. Trials are advertised for U/12s, U/14s, U/16s , U/18s and U/21s. Womens soccer is the fastest growing sport in Australia with more girls joining every year. The Wolves had to expand their age groups and the new head coach , supported by long time Wolves manager Mick Falcon, is looking forward to a successful season. For more details contact Geoff Wilson on 0411249751 or the Wolves Administrator Womens Division Jenny Fares on 42280120.

Heartbreak at dawn!

Uruguay became the 32nd and final country to qualify for the World Cup on Sunday, beating Australia 3-0 in the second leg of their play-off.

A 3-1 aggregate scoreline left the hapless Socceroos to contemplate another heart-breaking failure. Dario Silva, playing only 12 days after dislocating his shoulder, broke through in the 14th minute as Uruguay, trailing 1-0 from the first leg, levelled the aggregate.

After both sides wasted a succession of chances, substitute Richard Morales headed a decisive goal in the 71st minute. Morales, who spent two brief spells in police custody in the last year, added a third from close range in injury time to send the two times ex-champions to their first World Cup since 1990.

It was a bitter pill for Australia, who lost 2-1 on aggregate to Argentina in a play-off for the 1994 World Cup and on away goals to Iran in another play-off for France '98. It was Australia's first defeat in a qualifier since they lost to Argentina in 1993, 15 matches ago.

Uruguay dominated most of the match against the over- physical Socceroos for whom only Harry Kewell shone. But Australia had an excellent patch early in the second half when a crucial away goal looked on the cards.

Australia had had a chance in the first minute but Brett Emerton shot into the side netting. Uruguay's first effort came with a dipping 25-metre volley from Alvaro Recoba, who had another good shot in the 10th minute from nearly 40 metres. Any doubts about Silva's fitness were dispelled in the 14th minute as Paolo Montero sent a long ball out of defence.

The Malaga striker fought off a challenge from Craig Moore and prodded the ball beyond goalkeeper Mark Schwarzer to open the scoring.

Uruguay's Alvaro Recoba celebrates after helping beat Australia 3-0 during their match in Montevideo.

Australia nearly grabbed an immediate equaliser when Uruguay goalkeeper Fabian Carini had to make a world-class save to push away a header by Kewell. Uruguay took control but missed the chance to finish off their unsettled and nervous opponents before the break. Shaun Murphy made an acrobatic clearance off the line after Mario Regueiro had broken through the offside trap and pulled the ball back.

Then Federico Magallanes wasted an excellent chance from 12 metres when he shot straight at Schwarzer. Australia only threatened when Kewell got the ball. The Leeds United player was close with a 25-metre free kick and also created a golden chance for Mark Viduka, who shot weakly at Carini.

Australia finally settled down after the break, restricting Uruguay to two long-range left-foot efforts from Gianni Guigou in the first quarter of an hour, both of which flew wide.

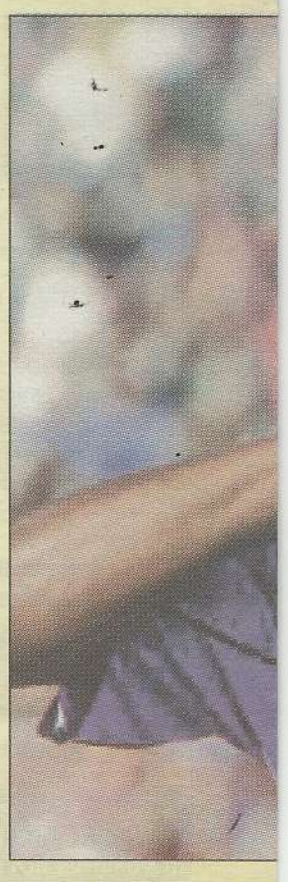
But as they took control of the midfield, Australia, like Uruguay in the first half, wasted a succession of chances. Viduka missed two when he failed to connect properly with the ball and Kewell fired over from close range with Uruguay claiming he had controlled the ball with his arm.

The game changed dramatically when Nacional's Morales - one of nine players who spent a week in custody after a brawl on the pitch at the same Centenario Stadium — replaced the wasteful Magallanes in the 68th minute.

Three minutes later, Recoba won a free kick on the left, floated the ball across and Morales — who subsequently spent a few more days in a police cell following a fight in a discotheque — headed home.

Australia pressed forward desperately and Carini pulled off another superb save to tip over a header by Moore. Morales sealed Australia's fate in injury time, scoring from close range after a Recoba breakaway.

Uruguay's twin goal-hero, Richard Morales (left) celebrates his goal with teammate Gianni Guigou.



AUSTRALIA'S CONQUE

OCEAN TICK

Frank Farina, beaten in Uruguay yesterday, sai have direct entry to th lost five World Cup play-off finals appearance in 1974.

Farina, whose side were dov two more from substitute Rich match press conference: "I th direct entry.

"FIFA (football's world go sions and we must go by the ru about it."

The last Oceania team to pla in 1982.

Australia were narrowly be

Australia's Harry Ke

Story (Closing Chapter)

ROR: Richard Morales makes a face after scoring the killer-third goal for Uruguay.

NIA NEEDS DIRECT ET NOW - FARINA

the World Cup play-off by l the Oceania winners should e finals. Australia, have now s and can boast just a single

ned by a Dario Silva goal and ard Morales, said in the post- nk that Oceania should have

erning body) must take deci- les. There's nothing we can do

in the finals was New Zealand

ten by both Iran in a play-off for the 1998 finals and by Argentina for the 1994 showcase event.

Australian players were punched and spat on their arrival in Montevideo which caused outrage in the footballing world but Farina said: "In the beginning, we had a few problems but after the incident at the airport the hospitality was very good and we had no more problems.

"Obviously the players were very disappointed. We just did not get the result we needed. I said we had to score today but we just didn't take our chances.

"They caused us a lot of problems, particularly in the first 20 minutes of the match. They went ahead after we made a mistake, but, as I said, we needed to score and did not manage to do it."

well (left) fires a free kick against a wall of Uruguayan players during the match.

IT'S AGONY FOR ANOTHER FOUR YEARS

By Bert van Bedaf

At the South Melbourne Social Club the couple of hundred fans that had gathered for the dawn raid on Uruguay stood and sang the national anthem as Paul Okon laid his hand upon his heart in the cauldron of Centenario Stadium in Montevideo and said a silent prayer.

It was six o'clock on a bright Monday morning and everyone's nerves were stretched to their limit.

The small crowd cheered as Brett Emerton fired off his first volley after two minutes and they groaned when it went wide, but the general mood was hopeful that this time the Socceroos would succeed.

Yet, the first setback arrived within the first quarter of an hour. A leaden silence hung thick in the air as Uruguay's feted striker Dario Silva got past Shaun Murphy and slotted the equalising goal past Aussie 'keeper

Mark Schwarzer after 14 minutes. One-nil for Uruguay meant 1-1 over the two legs so far and the pressure was building. An Australian goal would see the Socceroos through and force Uruguay to score three goals to qualify. There was still a chance.

The fans rose as one as Harry Kewell's header was pushed wide by Uruguay goal keeper Fabian Carini a minute later. And they cheered again as Stan Lazaridis won a corner in the 20th minute.

A Kewell freekick on 24 minutes extracted agonised groans as it shaded the crossbar, but anxiety levels reached breaking point when Murphy saved off the line after Tony Vidmar caught the ball between his feet and would have struck an own goal.

The Australian defence barely held against the Uruguayan barrage and the Socceroos were nearly gone and buried in the 27th minute, when Silva crossed from the left and Gerardo Magallanes had a free shot on goal that fortunately Schwarzer smothered as he raced off his line.

Josip Skoko got trolleyed off twice as Australia struggled in the midfield and the ball rarely ventured forward to Mark Viduka, who simply could not stamp his mark on the match.

"I'm glad it's half time," former Socceroo goalkeeper Jeff Olver said. A veteran of two World Cup campaigns and now assistant coach at South Melbourne, Olver looked a worried man.

"We were under the cosh and it's time (coach) Frank (Farina) gets into them and re-jigs a few things. We've had two chances and they (Uruguay) looked dangerous all the time," he said.

There were no changes immediately after the break. Farina had left the side as in the first half and glaring problems mounted.

Viduka remained isolated. Kewell tried too much and repeatedly was dispossessed. The midfield of Okon and Skoko was under the hammer and Australia's defence barely kept it together.

Yet, Uruguay took a breather offering Australia to string together a good spell. Okon and Skoko combined beautifully in the 54th minute, allowing Skoko a 20-metre shot on goal that Carini pushed wide.

Australia was taking the game to the Uruguayans and the South Melbourne fans appreciated the Aussie assault, with three chances coming in quick succession.

Okon put Kewell wide on the right and his cross found Viduka, who could not get in range.

Kewell unleashed a left-foot shot that went over the bar and possibly Australia's best chance came from a Lazaridis corner that bounced in front of Viduka, who headed the rising bal over the bar in front of an open goal.

A deafening "Aussie, Aussie, Oi, Oi, Oi," reverberated through the social club and the mood was buoyant until that man Alvaro Recoba struck his free-kick that Richard Morales headed on to put Uruguay two goals up and 2-1 on aggregrate.

After exerting all that pressure Australia went down on the counter, beaten by dead-ball specialist Recoba and a well-struck header. Farina risked all by taking off Kevin Muscat and putting on Paul Agostino as an additional striker.

Australia needed only one goal and win the tie on the away-goal rule, but there was no way through South America's tightest defence no matter how hard the Socceroos tried.

Shaun Murphy powered a brilliant header on target from another Lazaridis corner, but Carini tipped it over the bar as he had done in the home leg.

These were desperate times and Farina put everything on the line by taking Murphy off and throwing John Aloisi in the fire for the last ten minutes.

Kewell whipped in two more crosses from the left that failed to connect with any of Australia's four of five forwards as Uruguay defended tenaciously to hold on to its qualification lead.

Australia's Shaun Murphy dejectedly departs the field after Australia's 3-0 defeat by Uruguay at the Centenario Stadium, in Montevideo.

Now and then an agonised "Come on", erupted from tense throats, but the goal that would have carried Australia into the World Cup finals next year was not forthcoming.

Then came the mortal blow as Morales struck Uruguay's third goal on 90 minutes from a Recoba cut-back.

The frustrated and disappointed crowd dispersed, kicking rubbish bins, while the joyous scenes of celebrating Uruguayans filled the giant screen and a shattered Farina bowed his head in pain and sorrow.

Again, it was not to be. As always, Australia tried hard and got so close, but as has been the case for 27 years, the ultimate price, a second World Cup qualification proved too far once more.

Olver stared into space, reliving the agony of failure during his time and having to endure another defeat once again.

"We had our opportunities in the second half. We had probably two good chances and a couple of half chances, but unfortunately we didn't take them," Olver said.

"Uruguay were just too clever. They were very street smart. They slowed it down when they had to and brought four guys down (in defence) when they had to.

"I experienced it twice as a player in 1986 and 1990 and now I'm experiencing it again. It's very disheartening and very disappointing."

And looking towards the future, with Australian soccer facing another four barren years? "I don't know what happens now. I think we just wait and see as usual," Olver said.

NEW SOUTH WALES PREMIER LEAGUE

SOCCER FEDERATION N·S·W

www.soccernsw.com.au

FEATURE MATCH

Sutherland Sharks vs Fairfield Bulls

KICK-OFF: 7pm & 5pm, Saturday 1 December 2001
VENUE: Seymour Shaw Park, The Boulevarde, Miranda

With one competition point to their credit, the Sharks are keen for a win, as they seek to arrest a slide that could see them lose touch with the Top Five.

"We haven't started the season well, but there are a number of reasons for that," said coach Billy McColl.

"We had a couple of boys who had problems getting clearances, a few injuries and some bad luck at key stages during games and we have struggled."

But there have been a number of positives with new strike pairing Monte Pfrengle and Kris Karanasos starting to find their feet and with a productive midfield pairing of Bill Petrovski and Steve Cklamovski, there are signs that a win is not far away. With no injury concerns the Sharks are expected to have a full strength squad available for the visit of the Bulls.

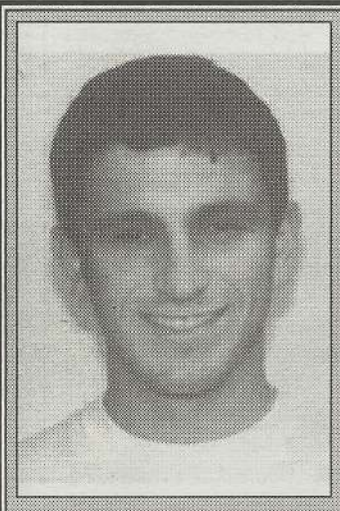
"We are being competitive and I am confident we can translate that to points," concluded McColl, "and I can promise, we are going to make life very difficult for Fairfield on Saturday night."

Fairfield has also struggled in recent weeks and was on the end of a hiding from Blacktown City in Round Five. After starting the match strongly, the Bulls faded badly after the half-hour mark to go down 6-2.

With two wins and a draw from five starts, coach Craig Sharpley is looking to this game to reignite the Bulls' season from their current ladder position of seventh.

"We were very disappointed after our performance against Blacktown," said Sharpley. "We know we are a much better side than that and the boys really have to dig deep and find something this week." Ray Younis is the only Bulls' player causing any concern, and he is not expected to be available for another 4-5 weeks, but Sharpley is not expecting to ring any changes at this early stage of the season.

"We've been going hard at training since the start of the season and I intend to give the boys a couple of light sessions in the lead up to the Sutherland game. The Sharks will be tough, and I hope the freshen up will help some of the tired legs in the side," said Sharpley.



The key to the game: Outstanding Sharks' GK, Mitchell Blowes

SQUADS

SHARKS: 1. Dennes Olla, 2. Peter Feehan, 3. Alen Stajcic, 4. David O'Han, 5. Ben Short, 6. Dean Heffernan, 7. Jamie Danaskos, 8. Monte Pfrengle, 9. Alex Pfrengle, 10. Steve Cklamovski, 11. Kris Karanasos, 12. Dean Spresian, 13. Ambrose Mancia, 14. Andy Watts, 15. Colin McAusland, 16. Kire Josevski, 17. Bill Petrovski, 20. Sam LaMacchia, 21. Mitchell Blowes, ***Coach***: Billy McColl

BULLS: 1. Frank Mikuletic, 2. Chris Giometti, 3. Mathew Dihm, 4. Paul Bourke, 6. Paul Richardson, 7. Ray Younis, 8. Stewart Van Bentum, 9. Marc Hoenselaars, 10. Mathew Borg, 11. Richard Harrison, 12. Tom Maric, 13. Adam Snyder, 14. Ismael Arrarte, 15. Pat Darvill, 16. Andy Ravanello, 17. Craig Sharpley, 18. Leo Carle, 19. Jason Connolly, 20. Ali Akbal, 21. Fernando Pellegrino, ***Coach:*** Craig Sharpley

THE SUTHERLAND SHARKS ARE PROUDLY SPONSORED BY Pipe King, Bezzina's Development, Caltex, Howard Water Proofing, Knock-out Shoes, Realco Glass and Aluminium, Man-Lin-Wah Restaurant

PREMIER LEAGUE

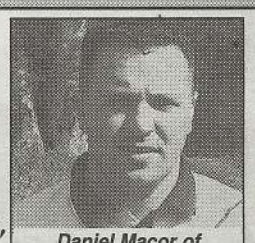
ROUND 6

Friday November 30				1st Grade	U19
C'bury-M'ville	vs	P'matta Eagles	Lambert Park	8:00pm	6:00pm
Saturday December 1					
S'land Sharks	vs	Fairfield Bulls	Seymour Shaw	7:00pm	5.00pm
Blacktown City	vs	L'hardt Tigers	Gabbie Stadium	7:00pm	5.00pm
Bankstown City	vs	St George	Jensen Park	7.00pm	5.00pm
Bonnyrigg WE	vs	Penrith Panthers	Serbian Centre	7.00pm	5.00pm
Central Coast	vs	Belconnen BD	Woy Woy Oval	6.30pm	4.30pm

ROUND 7

Friday December 7				1st Grade	U19
St George	vs	Blacktown City	St George Std	8.00pm	6.00pm
Saturday December 8					
Penrith Panthers	vs	Belconnen BD	Andrews Rd Fld	6.30pm	4.30pm
Fairfield Bulls	vs	C'bury-M'ville	Nineveh Fld	7.00pm	5.00pm
Bonnyrigg WE	vs	Bankstown City	Serbian Centre	7.00pm	5.00pm
Sunday December 9					
Leichhardt Tigers	vs	S'land Sharks	Lambert Park	5.00pm	3.00pm
P'matta Eagles	vs	Central Coast	Melita Stadium	6.30pm	4.30pm

The retrospective *Cafe La Scala Player of the Rounds are:*
Round 1: Chad Taylor (Penrith Panthers)
Round 2: Jimmy Aschner (Bonnyrigg White Eagles)
Round 3: Andrew Crews (Leichhardt Tigers)
Round 4: Naoki Imaya (Blacktown City Demons)
Round 5: Daniel Macor (Belconnen Blue Devils)
"Cafe La Scala is located at Shop 32, Piazza Level, Italian Forum, 23 Norton St, Leichhardt"



Daniel Macor of Belconnen Blue Devils.

Inside ... Inside ...

- From The Sidelines P20
- Match Reports P24-25
- Sutherland Sharks in focus P21
- Scoreboard P22

NSW Premier League

PREVIEW ROUND SIX

LAMBERT PARK HOSTS OLYMPIC VS EAGLES

C'bury-M'ville Olympic vs Parramatta Eagles

KICK-OFF: 8pm & 6pm, Friday 30 November 2001
VENUE: Lambert Park, Marion St, Leichhardt

Canterbury was the early competition leader, but in recent weeks they have been unable to recapture their scintillating early season form.

Some new inclusions in the form of Les Bihari and Yane Talcevski are certain to ignite the Berries who will have defender Greg Collins available after an injury scare in the game against Belconnen. Parramatta is flying high again and made nice work of Sutherland last start at home to move into third spot on the ladder. Anthony Mondello is proving to be a revelation in the Eagles' midfield and he will be one of a number of key Eagles' players for the Berries to watch.

SQUADS

OLYMPIC: 1. George Bouhoutsos, 2. Greg Collins, 3. Christian Ortiz, 4. John Manolopoulos, 5. Mark D'Alessandro, 6. Andy Amegashie, 7. Con Paradisis, 8. Yane Talcevski, 9. Mark Beldhani, 10. Hussein Jomaa, 11. Aheleas Kotsopoulos, 12. John Pillemer, 13. Terry Murphy, 14. Mite Talcevski, 15. Steve Biviano, 16. Peter Biviano, 17. Marcelo Guerrero, 18. Ali Salim, 20. Les Bihari, ***Coach:*** John Xipolitas

EAGLES: 1. Jason Holmes, 2. Daniel Borg, 3. Geoff Dwyer, 4. Malcolm Meilak, 5. Mark Reveley, 6. Mirko Jurilj, 7. Mauricio Islas, 8. Daniel Kukucka, 9. Anthony Mondello, 10. Tony Mittiga, 11. Jim Bakis, 12. Glenn Sprod, 14. Stephen Chipps, 15. Ben Delicata, 16. Geoff Howarth, 19. Danial Cummins, 21. Joel Morgan, ***Coach:*** Tam Finlayson

CANTERBURY-MARRICKVILLE OLYMPIC ARE PROUDLY SPONSORED BY Olympic Airways & Meraklis Tailors

Bankstown City Lions vs St George Saints

KICK-OFF: 7pm & 5pm, Saturday 1 December 2001
VENUE: Jensen Park, Clapham St, Sefton

Bankstown has struggled a little in recent weeks but get the chance to get their season back on track when they host a winless St. George.

Striker Harry Karl remains on the injured list and much of the Lions' attacking fortunes will fall on Colin Luff and Iain MacDonald. St. George was never in the hunt against Bonnyrigg a fortnight back and has slipped to the bottom of the ladder.

Michael Kladis has left the club and a decision on his successor as captain and coach will be made soon.

SQUADS

LIONS: 1. Zlatko Josevski, 2. Sefer Yildiz, 3. Richard Luksic, 4. Bryan Raeburn, 5. Anthony Kanaan, 6. Paul Wearne, 7. George Issa, 8. Robert Issa, 9. Goce Trposki, 10. Iain MacDonald, 11. Alex Trpkoski, 12. Adam Mammoliti, 13. Harry Karl, 14. Erkin Elveren, 15. Damien Luksic, 16. Colin Luff, 17. Steven Dimitrievski, 18. Dong-Ki Kim, 19. Hossam Nouh, 20. Cem Akilli, ***Coach:*** Claudio Canosa

SAINTS: 1. Stacy Alogdellis, 2. Mark Bariamis, 3. Nick Boliantitis, 4. Angelo Petratos, 5. Max Sevares, 7. George Maglis, 8. Joshua Rufo, 9. Achilleas Markopoulos, 10. Emmanuel Papageorgiou, 11. John Fotiadis, 12. Fabio Macolino, 13. Brad Campbell, 14. Steven Papadopoulos, 15. Nick Mandic, 16. Simon Verrender, ***Coach:*** TBA

THE BANKSTOWN CITY LIONS ARE PROUDLY SPONSORED BY Direct Smash Repairs, Alex Electrical, I & V Plaster, D & V Building Supplies, Mortgage Options, New Tech Automotives, Australiers Bucinski Accounting, BP Yagoona, D & S Gyprock, Braga Freight & Travel, Spiroski Foods

Blacktown City Demons vs Leichhardt Tigers

KICK-OFF: 7pm & 5pm, Saturday 1 December 2001
VENUE: Gabbie Stadium, Quinn Ave, Seven Hills

Blacktown continued their unbeaten run handing out a 6-2 hiding to Fairfield and sit just one competition point behind the league leaders Bonnyrigg.

Mark Hagger made his long awaited return off the bench in that match and coach Brian Brown faces a tough decision on whether to include him in the starting lineup or again use him off the bench. The Tigers drew their last game with Bankstown City in a spiteful encounter and used the weekend off to play a friendly against NSL side Sydney United. Midfielder Danny Townsend will return from his honeymoon and is expected to be rushed straight back into the first grade squad.

SQUADS

DEMONS: 1. John Crawley, 2. Paul Yates, 3. Damien Foxe, 4. Peter Sermanni, 5. Ben Willard, 6. Damon Langan, 7. Paul Dee, 8. Darren Iocca, 9. Kain Rastall, 10. Naoki Imaya, 11. Jim Nikas, 12. Zlatko Donev, 13. Steve Riches, 14. David Reid, 15. Mark Hagger, 16. Patrick Gatt, 17. Luciano Berbis, 18. Graeme O'Donell, 19. Chad Lewis, 20. James Wilkinson, ***Coach:*** Brian Brown

TIGERS: 1. Andrew Crews, 2. Kelvin Foster, 3. Joe Moric, 4. Ross Kethel, 5. Steven Livingstone, 6. Michael Galluzzo, 7. Joe Bruni, 8. James Stubbs-Mills, 9. Allan Picken, 10. Steve Karavatakis, 11. Sam La Rocca, 12. Jeremy Brown, 13. Andrew Falas, 14. Zoki Adioski, 15. Ryan Jones, 16. Anthony Tesoro, 17. Jason Lal, 18. Harry James, 19. Danny Townsend, 20. John Paul Boutros, ***Coach:*** Les De Celis.

THE BLACKTOWN CITY DEMONS ARE PROUDLY SPONSORED BY Perfection Milk, West Ham United Football Club, Cadbury-Schweppes, Wonderland Travel, Independent Gaming Systems

Bonnyrigg White Eagles vs Penrith Panthers

KICK-OFF: 7pm & 5pm, Saturday 1 December 2001
VENUE: Serbian Centre, 13 Simpson Rd, Bonnyrigg

Bonnyrigg is the only side to remain unbeaten this season and notched their second straight 5-0 scoreline when defeating St George last Friday week.

The White Eagles have added David Aceski from Marconi to the squad and his inclusion is an added bonus to a star studded outfit that is looking to continue their grip on top spot for at least another week. Penrith was unlucky when they went down 1-0 at home to the Coasties, and they are another side who needs a win to push themselves back into the Top Five. No side has come away with the points from the Serbian Centre this season and the Panthers will have to be at their absolute best to test the league leaders.

SQUADS

WHITE EAGLES: 1. Fernando Greco, 2. Sasha Utjesenovic, 4. Bobby Dragas, 5. Tayfun Devrimol, 6. Vuko Tomasevic, 7. Javier Mancino, 8. David Harding, 9. Shane Knight, 10. Christopher Bradley, 11. Johnny Ghisso, 13. Robert Gomez, 14. Leigh Gunn, 15. Peter Cklamovski, 16. Michael Hawrysiuk, 17. Jimmy Aschner, 18. John Kyriazopoulos, 20. David Aceski, 22. Rajko Mandic, 23. Devrim Huseyin, ***Coach:*** Greg Woodhouse

PANTHERS: 1. Chad Taylor, 2. Jon Hawkins, 4. Glenn Meilak, 5. Ben Wright, 6. Daniel Wells, 7. Dave Gardiner, 8. Paul Marosevic, 9. Rod Hutchinson, 10. Osvaldo El Ali, 11. Luke O'Connell, 12. Christian Lima, 13. Jason Sciberras, 15. Wayne Berrigan, 17. Shane Hammond, 18. Gustavo Orcajo, 20. Tim, O'Connell, 21. Ryan Noble, 26. Luke Boyd, 24. Kurt Van Arkkels, ***Coach:*** Tony Rassmussen

THE BONNYRIGG WHITE EAGLES ARE PROUDLY SPONSORED BY B & S Windows

NSW Premier League

FROM THE SIDELINES *with Greg Stock and Paul Goodwin*

Parramatta Eagles have had some bad luck with players and injuries recently.

Senior player Ben Delicata suffered a badly lacerated index finger in an industrial accident in his fitting and turning job and had to be rushed to hospital for micro surgery on the eve of the Blacktown City game at The Gabbie.

Delicata nearly sliced his finger off on a grinder and severed the tendons badly, meaning he will be out for another six weeks at least.

Doctors have advised him to refrain from any activity, which might cause him to knock or fall on the affected digit.

Meanwhile Adam Mansueto, 18-year-old brother of David, who is also a long time Parramatta Eagles player, has undergone a knee reconstruction, holding back his progress which saw him make his under 19 debut last season after coming through the youth league ranks and becoming an apprentice.

The midfielder was expected to feature prominently this term but will now probably sit out most of the season.

Mauricio Islas will also be out for at least three weeks with a badly torn calf muscle.

At the club, which is renowned for its social events, there is to be a Chicken and Prawn night on Saturday 1st December at Melita Stadium in the clubrooms, carrying on a very popular tradition begun at the old Phoenician club in the city. Disco music will be played and the evening is designed for all ages. Details can be obtained from the club on (02) 9645 4413.

◆◆◆◆

With the weekend off due to the NSW State team tour of New Caledonia, Penrith Panthers' squad initiated an internal triathlon challenge for Saturday morning.

The event took place at the Rowing Centre and included a swim leg across the rowing course, two laps of cycling around the full complex, and then one lap of running around of the complex.

No real favourite emerged from the squad, but all eyes were on Danny Wells in the swim leg, with a lot of dollars going on him to tail the field through this leg.

However, Wells was expected to pick up on the other legs to bid strongly. After the triathlon the Panthers senior squad then were due to move to Andrews Road Field to participate in a Club Day where the Youth and Cadet League sides played internal games and were measured for their gear for the 2002 season.

Meantime, Penrith under 19 star Mark Mijas has attracted interest from English club Northampton Town. Mijas' former clubs include CSI Schofields, Parramatta Eagles and Hills United.

Mark Mijas of Penrith: Attracting interest from English club.

◆◆◆◆

Central Coast will not, after all, be playing Belconnen at North Power Stadium this Saturday night.

Due to further unexpected hitches at North Power Stadium, the Coasties have been informed that the ground will not be available for the match. According to the council the ground still needs time to recover. The question is recover from what?

With only two soccer matches played on the ground in the last two months it seems hardly likely it has been overused.

No. It appears that no work has been carried out on the playing surface since the end of the rugby league season back in September and the two games played by Newcastle United ten days ago have caused the ground to be put out of action (but not for the Carols by Candlelight due to be held on December 20th!).

In the meantime, Council has very kindly offered the club the use of Woy Woy Oval for the game on the 1st December. For the game against Fairfield Bulls on the 15th of December details are not yet at hand.

◆◆◆◆

Bankstown City coach Claudio Canosa is expecting his side to turn things around in the next few weeks.

Following the side's 1-1 draw with Leichhardt in Round 5, Canosa was adamant that the Lions fortunes were on the improve. "We have started off a little slowly but there are a number of reasons," said Canosa.

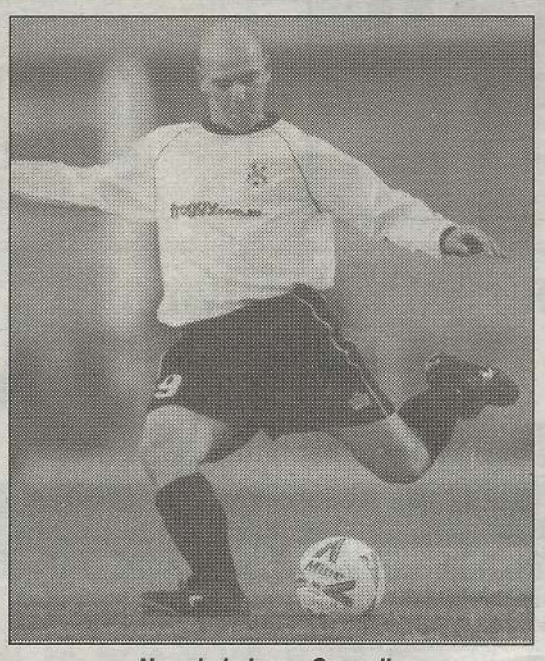
"Our pre-season was relatively short given that we had just finished the winter season, and with some new players it's taken the side a few weeks to come together as a unit. But we have been training very hard and we are starting to improve and I can see us going forward from here."

In other club news, striker Harry Karl will be back in light work this week. Karl was taken to hospital by ambulance after colliding with Frank Mikuletic at Jensen Park in Round 4 but is improving every day and could be back playing again as early as four weeks.

◆◆◆◆

Bulls' defender Jason Connolly is walking a little taller this week after his partner Alison presented him with a bouncing baby girl just prior to the Bankstown game. Little Chloe is already the apple of dad's eye, who describes the event as "one of the best days in his life". Congratulations Jason and Alison from all Premier League fans.

◆◆◆◆



New dad: Jason Connolly.

An interested spectator at the Leichhardt Tigers v Bankstown City Lions game in Round 5, was none other than former Sydney Olympic and Leichhardt striker Derek Poimer. Looking trim, taut and terrific, could a comeback be in the winds?

Tigers' fans were a little miffed at the non-inclusion of diminutive midfielder Danny Townsend in the lineup to play Bankstown, but there was a good reason for it.

Danny married longtime girlfriend Kate and was honeymooning up in far north Queensland. From all Tigers fans, congratulations Danny and Kate!

◆◆◆◆

Michael Kladis was a late withdrawal from the NSW State squad which travelled to New Caledonia. Selected in the original side, he was forced to miss the game due to work commitments, much to his regret.

"I would have loved to go," said Kladis, "but work must come first. Brian Brown was very understanding and I am bitterly disappointed I couldn't make it." Currently in the middle of a purple patch in form, his skills would have come in handy for the Blues, but such was not to be.

◆◆◆◆

The clubrooms at Seymour Shaw are fast becoming one of the real football 'hangouts' about town.

Having recently installed Foxtel into the bar area, fans can now enjoy a quiet drink after the game and the opportunity to tune into the English Premier League games, and watch the likes of Aussie superstars Kewell, Viduka, Schwarzer and co.

As one well-known Premier League coach put it "it's a bloody ripper" as he sat watching Leeds v Manchester United!

◆◆◆◆

Canterbury fans can rest easy about the injury to defender Greg Collins. Collins was carted off to hospital during the Berries game against Belconnen after he received an accidental finger in the eye but has thankfully suffered no lasting problems.

"It was a precautionary thing," said Collins, "but I am very glad I went to hospital. There is no point mucking about when it's your eye at stake."

Central Coast Coasties vs Belconnen Blue Devils

KICK-OFF: 6.30pm & 4.30pm, Saturday 1 December 2001
VENUE: Woy Woy Oval, Woy Woy

The Coasties slipped into the Top Five last week after a tough 1-0 win over Penrith and they will be desperate to hold that form ahead of a tough visit from the Blue Devils.

Caretaker coach Andrew Ollier has done a brilliant job in the absence of Dale Eggleton and there is much anticipation on the Coast that this could well be their season.

Belconnen has also moved up the ladder and notched their second win in a row against Canterbury last start. Steve Lazzari is again starting to find the form that won him the Golden Boot and Gold Medal last season.

SQUADS

COASTIES: 1. Matthew Collits, 2. Sean Matthews, 3. Marcus Steele, 4. Danny Burt, 5. Mitchell Daley, 6. Dane Hokin, 7. Peter Preston, 8. Adam Peatey, 9. Damien Smith, 10. Mick Williams, 11. Karl Freeman, 12. Peter Leary, 13. Peter Ritchie, 14. Andrew Clark, 15. Pat Bradley, 17. Steve Cutler, 18. Nathan Byrn, 20. Darren Moore, ***Coach:*** Andrew Ollier

BLUE DEVILS: 1. Anthony Giannasca, 2. Toplica Popovich, 3. Matthew Cachia, 4. Elliot Zwangobani, 5. Nic Purdue, 6. Shane Lyons, 8. Michael Katz, 9. Stephen Lazzari, 10. Daniel Macor, 11. David Arranz, 12. Jaime Mauro, 13. Stewart Camara, 14. Elia Salloum, 15. Paul Gagetti, 16. Oscar Zamora, 17. Stephen Kemp, 18. Lee Pietrukowski, 19. Daniel Camara, 20. Rade Kosanovic, ***Coach:*** Lino Fiorese

CENTRAL COAST COASTIES are proudly sponsored by Central Coast Leagues Club

NEW SOUTH WALES PREMIER LEAGUE

PRODUCTION MANAGER: Arvind Hickman
CO-ORDINATOR: Binesh Mudaliar
WRITERS: Greg Stock, Paul Goodwin, Claire Killeen, Lezette Isaac
PHOTOGRAPHY: Carlos Furtado
★ *All information is courtesy of the New South Wales Soccer Federation.*

NSWSF
Valentine Sports Park
235-257 Meurants Lane
GLENWOOD NSW 2768
Phone: (02) 9629 1800

NSW Premier League

CLUB FOCUS

WARNING: REBUILDING IN PROGRESS

A SUTHERLAND SHARKS PROFILE

By Claire Killeen

There are amazing things happening down in the Shire. In the land of sand, surf, sun and all other things summery, the Sutherland Sharks are making their mark on this community.

Securing the sponsorship of many illustrious companies, the Sharks are making headway through the corporate sector and in doing so; protecting the future of soccer in the Shire.

Club President, Richard May believes the Sharks provide the opportunity for many young players to find their fins in the competition before heading off to bluer waters.

The Sharks certainly have the structure for it. Having the label as one of the oldest soccer clubs in Sydney, development remains one their key goals.

"We are the oldest team in the competition and we have the structure and youth development to appeal. We are there for the development of the shire," says May.

Surviving in what is the strongest competition in the State, the Sharks are hoping the set the standard for other clubs to follow.

May has set up a five-year business plan, which includes new grandstands and emphasising the growth of soccer amongst the youth.

In this five-year plan May includes the sponsorship and support from the local community.

The Sharks have sought the sponsorship of companies and they have come to the party.

Pipe King is their major shirt sponsor, along with Caltex, Howard Water Proofing, Knock Out Shoes, Realco Glass and Aluminium and the Man-lin-Wah Restaurant.

May is pleased with the help the Sharks receive from the sponsors and he acknowledges the Sutherland team would not be anywhere without their support.

"They [sponsors] just love the game. They want to get involved and see the game succeed."

With all these good things happening off the field surely some luck and fortune has to come to the Sharks.

Their on field performances are encouraging but it's just not happening for them. After five rounds, the Sharks have four losses and one draw to their name. In most of their games, they have gone close but lost it in the end.

May says that this team is one of the best unit's they have fielded.

"It's better. It's got more experience, and the youth are coming through ... players to watch, Kris Karanasos and Monte Pfrengle..."

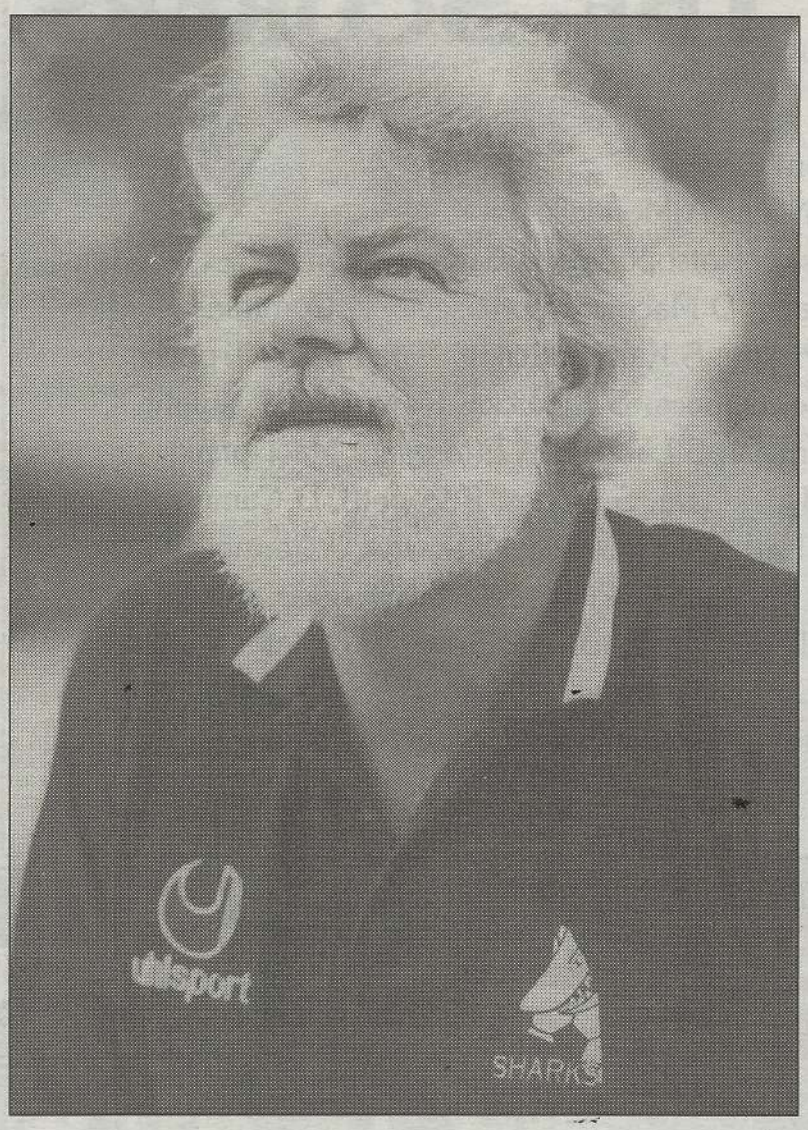
So with all these good things happening for the Sharks, how does May believe soccer can help change its image.

"It's an exciting time for soccer. With all these overseas players it shows the strength of it [soccer]. We need to get the corporate and media behind soccer.

"It's good that soccer has its own paper. But when Australia wins you can find them on the back page, but if they lose there is hardly a story.

"It [soccer] needs to increase its profile, its advertising and stop the infighting between the two bodies."

The Sharks this season it seems are poised for a solid campaign. Even if it doesn't happen the way they would like it to, everyone knows down the Shire way that the Sharks are a breeding pool full of immense talent waiting to show their full potential.



Sutherland Sharks' President, Richard May: "We are there for the development of the shire."

Sutherland captain, Alen Stajcic.

One of Sutherland's sponsors, Caltex.

The Sutherland Sharks' shirt sponsor, Pipe King

NSW Premier League

SCOREBOARD

ALL THE SCORERS

7 J Aschner
5 R Hutchinson
4 Z Donev, J Nikas, A Mondello
3 K Karanasos, A Kotsopoulos, J Bakis, R Gomez, M Hoenselaars, D Macor, V Tomasevic, D Cummins
2 L Boyd, A Picken, S Karavatakis, C Paradisis, G Trposki, A Amegashie, D Iocca, D Kukucka, P Preston, S Knight, M Borg, N Imaya, S Lazzari, M Pfrengle, I MacDonald
1 H Jomaa, M Beldham, S Riches, P Gagetti, D Camara, D Smith, H Karl, A Mammoliti, A Snyder, J Connolly, J Fotiadis, J Mancino, J Pillemer, S Livingstone, M Hagger, D Burt, O El Ali, S La Rocca, M Reveley, D Reid, J Ghisso, C Bradley, C Luff, K Rastall, A Petratos, S Lyons, M Katz, E Zwangobani, G Howarth, L Carle, S Matthews, J Stubbs-Mills

TABLES

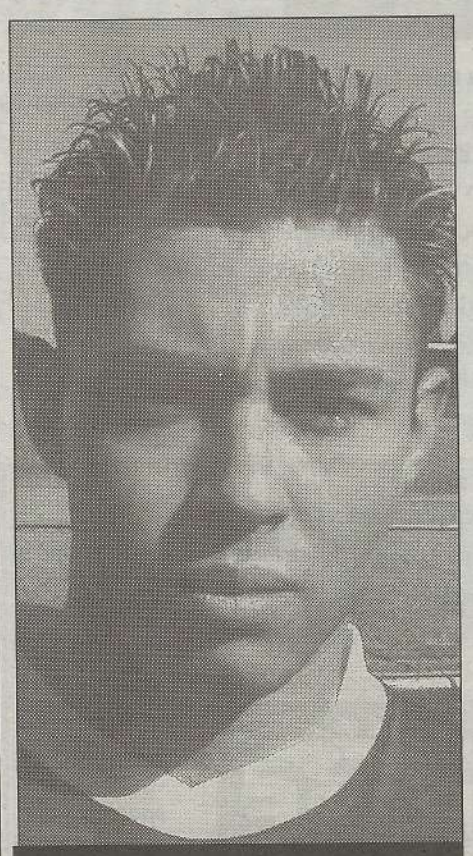
FIRST GRADE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Bonnyrigg White Eagles	5	4	1	0	18	6	13
Blacktown City	5	4	0	1	16	8	12
Parramatta Eagles	5	3	0	2	14	8	9
Leichhardt Tigers	5	2	2	1	7	8	8
Central Coast Coasties	5	2	2	1	6	7	8
Canterbury Marrickville	5	2	1	2	10	11	7
Fairfield Bulls	5	2	1	2	8	13	7
Belconnen Blue Devils	5	2	0	3	10	7	6
Penrith Panthers	5	1	3	1	8	7	6
Bankstown City Lions	5	1	2	2	7	11	5
Sutherland Sharks	5	0	1	4	5	13	1
St George Saints	5	0	1	4	3	13	1

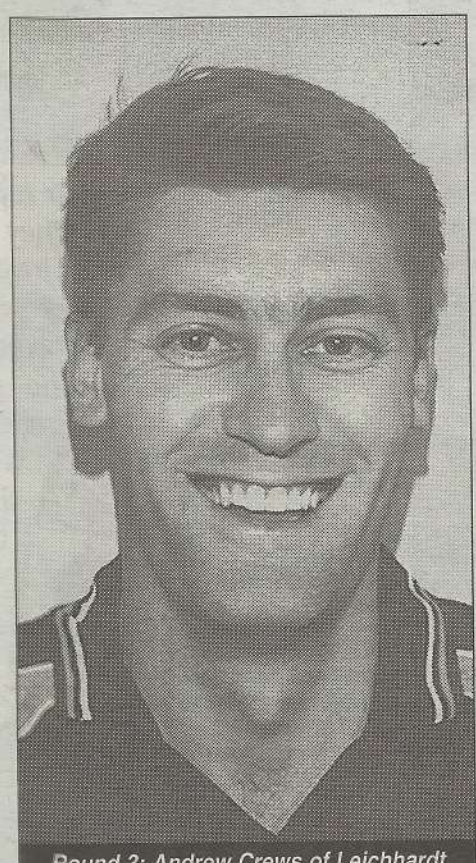
UNDER 19

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Leichhardt Tigers	5	5	0	0	13	1	15
Blacktown City Demons	5	4	1	0	10	5	13
Central Coast Coasties	5	4	0	1	15	3	12
Belconnen Blue Devils	5	3	1	1	18	9	10
Parramatta Eagles	5	3	0	2	5	4	9
Fairfield Bulls	5	2	2	1	8	7	8
Penrith Panthers	5	2	1	2	7	7	7
St George Saints	5	1	2	2	4	8	5
Canterbury Marrickville	5	1	1	3	7	10	4
Bonnyrigg White Eagles	5	1	0	4	4	14	3
Sutherland Sharks	5	0	0	5	5	14	0
Bankstown City Lions	5	0	0	5	2	16	0

Cafe La Scala: Player of the Round


Round 1: Chad Taylor of Penrith Panthers.

Round 2: Jimmy Aschner of Bonnyrigg White Eagles.


Round 3: Andrew Crews of Leichhardt Tigers.

Round 4: Naoki Imaya of Blacktown City Demons.

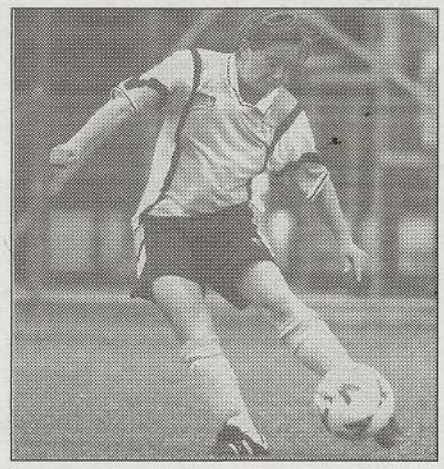
NSW Premier League

NSW SAPPHIRES IN PROFILE

EMMA DAVISON

DATE OF BIRTH: 4/5/85
BIRTH PLACE: Sydney
WEIGHT: 69kg
HEIGHT: 174cm
NICKNAME: Davo
MARITAL STATUS: Single
PLAYING POSITION: Midfield
YEAR SELECTED FOR SAPPHIRES: 2000
JUNIOR CLUB: Sutherland Sharks
REPRESENTATIVE HONOURS: NSW Sapphires, Matildas, Young Matildas
FAVOURITE MUSICIAN: Powderfinger, Live, Creed
FAV T.V SHOW: The Simpsons
FAV MOVIE: Shrek
FAV FOOD: Pasta
FAV HOLIDAY DESTINATION: Gold Coast
FAV SPORTING ICON: Don't have one
GREATEST INFLUENCE IN YOUR LIFE: Allan Bourke's training sessions
GREATEST MOMENT: Making the Matildas tour of Japan
2001 AMBITION: To be in the Sapphires starting XI in this season's Grand Final
MOST RESPECTED OPPONENT: Jo Peters
INTERESTS AWAY FROM SOCCER: Partying and hanging out with friends
NAME FOUR PEOPLE YOU WOULD INVITE TO DINNER: My friends from school
MOST EMBARRASSING MOMENT: Running down the sideline with the ball and falling over my feet
IF YOU COULD PICK AN ACTRESS TO PLAY YOU IN A MOVIE WHO WOULD IT BE? Gwyneth Paltrow
IF YOU COULD TAKE 3 THINGS ON A DESERTED ISLAND WHAT WOULD THEY BE? Discman, soccer ball and food
WHERE DO YOU SEE YOURSELF IN 10 YEARS TIME? Hope to be playing in America in women's pro football
HOW WOULD YOU SPEND YOUR LAST 10 DOLLARS? I don't know. I'll have to wait and see

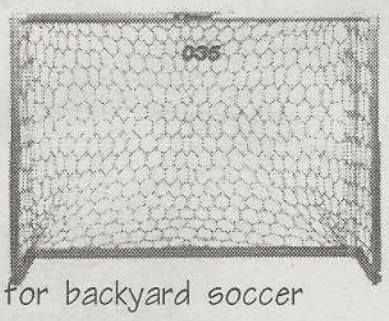
HEATHER GARRIOCK



DATE OF BIRTH: 21/12/82
BIRTH PLACE: Sydney
WEIGHT: 58kg
HEIGHT: 164cm
NICKNAME: H
MARITAL STATUS: Single
PLAYING POSITION: Midfield
YEAR SELECTED FOR SAPPHIRES: 1996
JUNIOR CLUB: Leppington Lions
REPRESENTATIVE HONOURS: NSW Sapphires, Sydney 2000 Olympics, Matilda for two years
FAVOURITE MUSICIAN: Janet Jackson
FAV T.V SHOW: Sex and the City
FAV MOVIE: Pretty Woman
FAV FOOD: Seafood
FAV HOLIDAY DESTINATION: Noosa
FAV SPORTING ICON: Martina Hingis
GREATEST INFLUENCE IN YOUR LIFE: My parents
GREATEST MOMENT: Scoring for Australia my first international goal at Sydney Football against China in front of 10,000 people
2001 AMBITION: Be consistent in the WNSL
MOST RESPECTED OPPONENT: Sun Wen
INTERESTS AWAY FROM SOCCER: Partying hard and going to the beach
NAME FOUR PEOPLE YOU WOULD INVITE TO DINNER: Richard Gere, Julia Roberts, Alan Shearer and my boyfriend
MOST EMBARRASSING MOMENT: I'm always getting embarrassed
IF YOU COULD PICK AN ACTRESS TO PLAY YOU IN A MOVIE WHO WOULD IT BE? Julia Roberts
IF YOU COULD TAKE 3 THINGS ON A DESERTED ISLAND WHAT WOULD THEY BE? Bottle of bourbon, soccer ball and Brad Pitt
WHERE DO YOU SEE YOURSELF IN 10 YEARS TIME? Being the world's best player
HOW WOULD YOU SPEND YOUR LAST 10 DOLLARS? On the pokies

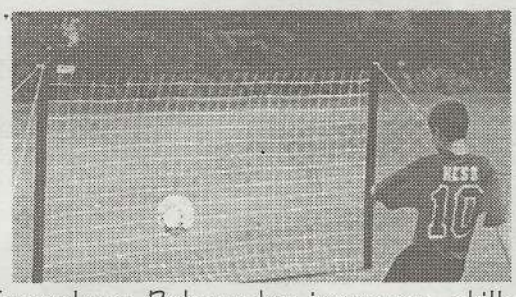
Save big dollars with famous GOLSPORT products this Christmas

FOLDAWAY MINI GOAL



Ideal for backyard soccer
Was ~~$110~~
Now $70
SAVE $40

THE FINISHER

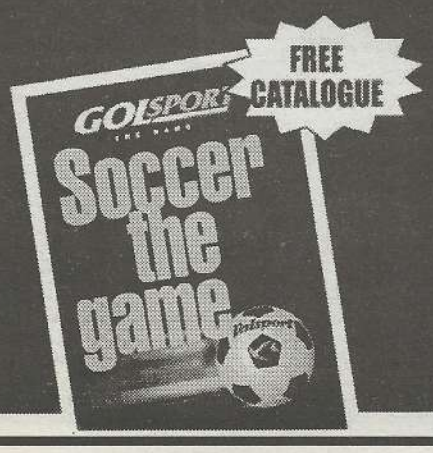


Frameless Rebounder improves skills
Was ~~$250~~
Now $180
SAVE $70

KWIK TRAINER

Complete – goal and net, soccer ball, 6 cones, pump, stopwatch
Was ~~$450~~
Now $330
SAVE $120

Discover many more specially reduced items on our website. Special prices to end-December 2001



FREE CATALOGUE

GOLSPORT

WWW.golsport.com.au

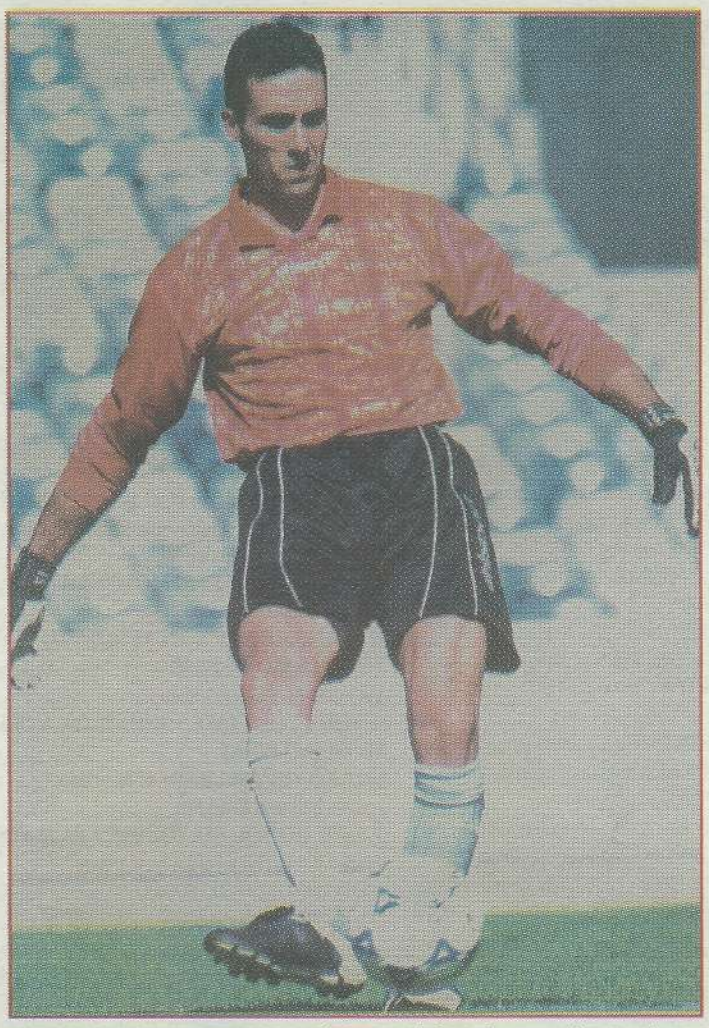
Tel: 02 9531 6644 Fax: 02 9531 4477

Official Clothing Supplier to NSW Soccer Federation.

GOL3 10/01

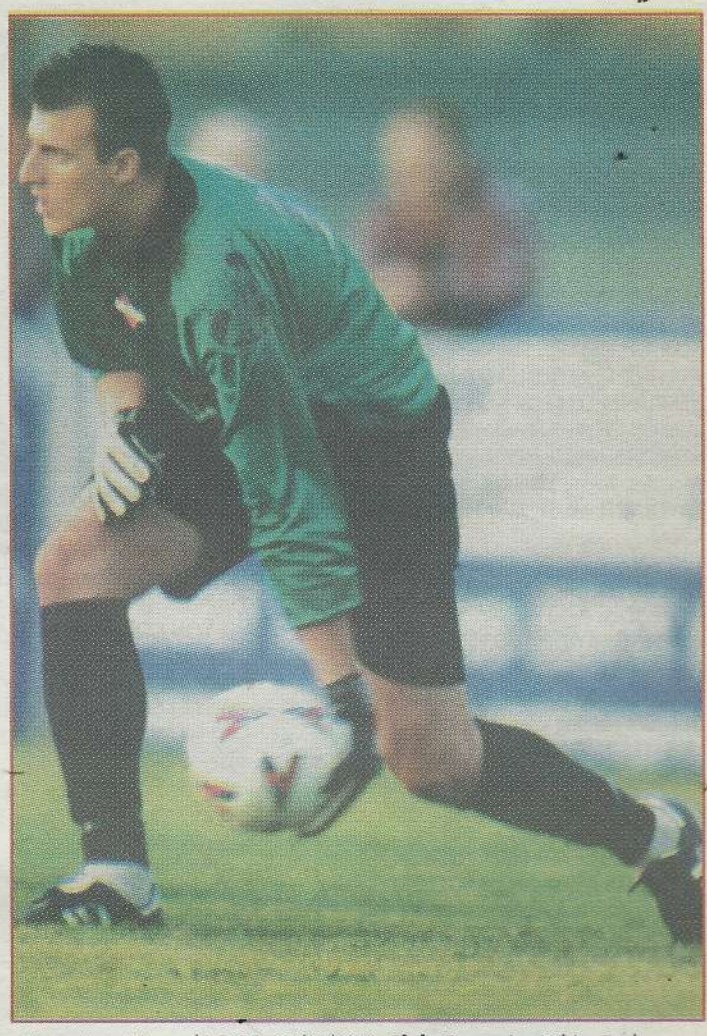
NSW Premier League

Premier League Custodians

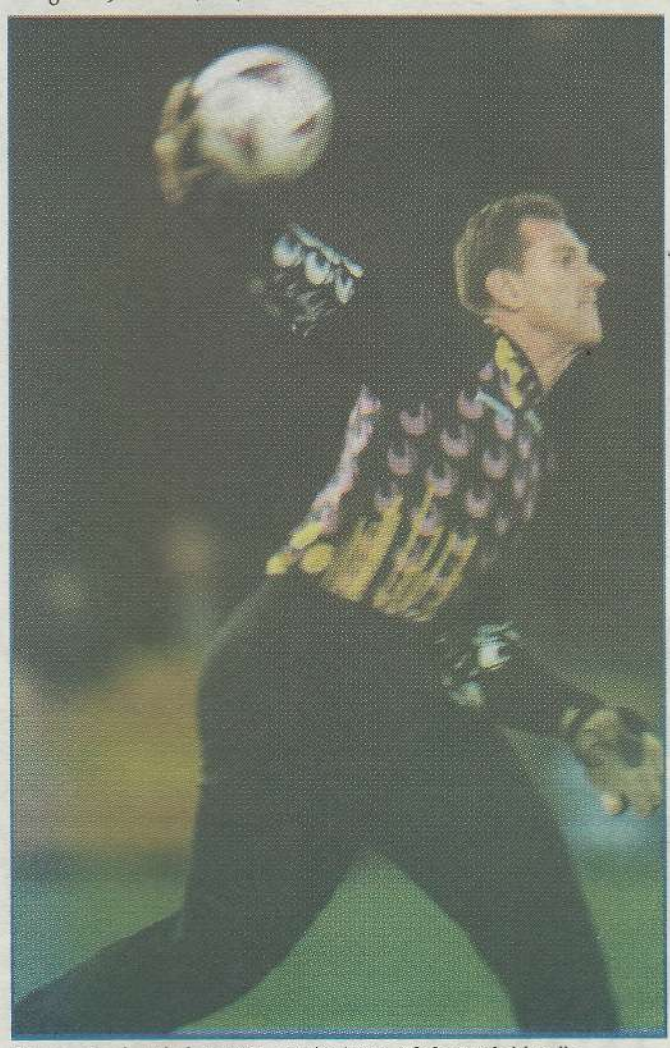


Name: Tony Giannasca ***DOB:*** 17/01/1970 ***Club:*** Belconnen Blue Devils
Former Clubs: Canberra City (NSL), Canberra Deakin (NSW), West Adelaide (NSL), Canberra Cosmos (NSL), Capital City Suns (ACT), Gungahlin Juventus (ACT)

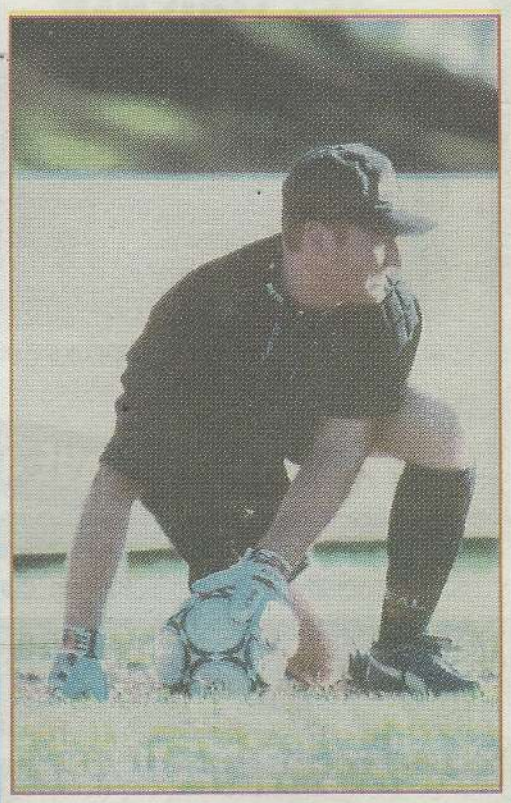
Name: John Crawley
DOB: 5/03/1972
Club: Blacktown City Demons
Former Clubs: Blacktown City Youth, Colo Colo (Chile), Macarthur Rams, Sydney United (NSL)



Name: Ivan Necevski ***DOB:*** 25/02/1980 ***Club:*** Bonnyrigg White Eagles
Former Clubs: Blacktown Association, Blacktown City, Penrith Panthers, Illawarra Lions



Name: Frank Mikuletic ***DOB:*** 27/02/1971 ***Club:*** Fairfield Bulls
Former Clubs: Warringah Freshwater, APIA Leichhardt, Canterbury & District, Dulwich Hill, Leichhardt Tigers, Canterbury-Marrickville Olympic



Name: Jason Holmes
DOB: 25/03/1974
Club: Parramatta Eagles
Former Clubs: North Ryde, Central Coast, Parramatta City

Name: Zlatko Josevski ***DOB:*** 7/02/1976 ***Club:*** Bankstown City Lions
Former Clubs: Sydney Croatia, Rockdale Ilinden, St Johns Park, Fairfield Bulls

NSW Premier League

The Blacktown City starting XI in their 6-2 defeat of Fairfield, the league's most impressive display to date.
Top row (L to R): Jim Nikas, Pat Gatt, David Reid, Damien Foxe, John Crawley, Paul Dee
Bottom row (L to R): Kain Rastall, Peter Sermanni, Zak Doney, Ben Willard, Naoki Imaya

CHAMPIONS LEAGUE

Liverpool win thrills Barca coach

Barcelona head coach Carlos Rexach spoke after his side's 3-1 win against Liverpool FC in the Champions League second group stage first match.

He announced that his team must not suffer a let down after this success because the Champions League hasn't finished yet.

"As is known, Barcelona is an unstable team, and they can suffer defeat by a weak rival one day," Rexach said.

Barcelona's head coach emphasized that this victory will help his players very much from the psychological point of view.

He also mentioned that it was very important for his side to win that match in order to put an end to the talks that Barca collapse at critical moments.

"We had to win this match. This victory will give us prestige. I am sure that after this match we will be treated more respectfully in Europe," the Catalan club head coach declared.

Rexach also said that Barcelona have demonstrated good football during this season but didn't manage to maintain that high level throughout the campaign. He agrees that his team played at a decent level against Liverpool.

Liverpool's Danish John Arne Riise (left) tussles with Barcelona's Brazilian star, Rivaldo.

IN-FORM ZIDANE HAILS MADRID'S 'GREAT START'

A goal from Zinedine Zidane and two opportunist efforts from Fernando Morientes gave Real Madrid a winning start to the Champions League second phase on Wednesday in the shape of a 3-2 triumph at Sparta Prague.

Eight-times champions Real, bidding for another triumph in their centenary season, look good for at least a place in the quarters after an away success which gave an early fillip to their hopes of progressing from Group C.

"We had expected a really tough match," said Zidane afterwards.

"But we were very strong tonight. It's a great start for us."

The mercurial Frenchman gave Real a 20th-minute lead with a left foot shot which took a slight deflection to arc high into the net past Czech keeper Petr Cech.

But Sparta, roared on by the 19,000 crowd, equalised out of the blue on the half hour after a comedy of errors in the Real back line.

Francisco Pavon and Fernando Hierro were the chief culprits as Libor Sionko left both of them them sliding around in his wake before whipping in a cross from the right for Ratislav Michalik to smack an instant left foot drive spinning beyond Casillas and into the far corner of the net

However, Real swiftly recovered from that lapse to regain the lead just six minutes later.

Raul's astute through ball found overlapping full back Michel Salgado and the marauding Morientes gleefully tucked his inch perfect cross from the right into the net from inside the six yard box.

But the Czechs scented blood after forcing a succession of corners and their pressure finally paid off with Libor Sionko driving home his second goal of the tournament on 72 minutes with the unfortunate Casillas partially unsighted behind a forest of defenders.

Just as the hosts appeared to be in the ascendancy Real produced the killer blow, a mere two minutes after being pegged back.

Brazilian wingback Roberto Carlos hared down the left and cut inside the area.

Keeper Cech blocked a low shot with his legs but Morientes was onto the loose ball in a flash for a true poacher's goal, his fifth in his last four games.

Bayern Munich's Owen Hargreaves (right) and Juan Sebastian Veron of Manchester United truggle for the ball.

HOW THEY STAND

• GROUP A •

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Boavista	1	1	0	0	1	0	3
Bayern Munich	1	0	1	0	1	1	1
Man Utd	1	0	1	0	1	1	1
Nantes	1	0	0	1	0	1	0

• GROUP B •

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Barcelona	1	1	0	0	3	1	3
Galatasaray	1	0	1	0	1	1	1
AS Roma	1	0	1	0	1	1	1
Liverpool	1	0	0	1	1	3	0

• GROUP C •

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Real Madrid	1	1	0	0	3	2	3
Panathinaikos	1	0	1	1	0	0	1
FC Porto	1	0	1	1	0	0	1
Sparta Prague	1	0	0	1	2	3	0

• GROUP D •

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
La Coruna	1	1	0	0	2	0	3
B. Leverkusen	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Juventus	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Arsenal	1	0	0	1	0	2	0

Coruna compound Gunners' woes

Two first half-goals from Spanish international striker Diego Tristan and Dutch counterpart Roy Makaay gave Deportivo La Coruna a comfortable 2-0 victory over Arsenal in their Champions' League second-phase Group D encounter.

The victory maintained Deportivo's unbeaten streak in the Champions' League this season, and a hold onto their hoodoo over English clubs following their two victories over Premiership title holders Manchester United in the first group phase.

"I said at the start of the season that we don't need to fear anyone and that has proved to be the case," said Deportivo coach Javier Irureta.

"I'm not saying that we will win the Champions' League but I think we have shown that Spanish football is not just about Real Madrid and Barcelona," he added.

By contrast, the defeat extended two sorry streaks for Arsenal, whose lack of ammunition up front is making their nickname of The Gunners look somewhat of a misnomer.

The north London outfit have now gone six games, both in domestic and European competition, without a win and they have not won on their last five visits to Spain.

Arsenal coach Arsene Wenger made no attempt to look for excuses for another lacklustre performance.

"It is a disappointing result especially in the way we lost the game. I felt we started well in the first five or six minutes but their second goal killed the game and I don't think it was necessary to concede a goal like that.

"We made a good reaction to it in the second half to get back in which we didn't get and it was difficult to get flowing without a goal," said the Frenchman.

Arsenal's scouting videos of the Spanish league leaders were quickly rendered useless when Irureta fulfilled his promise to change his tactics from the usual lone out-and-out target man and sent out Tristan and Makaay as a twin strike force.

The pairing quickly proved their worth.

Makaay, who scored a hat trick in Saturday's 3-1 win in the Spanish first division over Real Sociedad, added to his tally when he found the net after just nine minutes.

With Arsenal's defence in disarray, Makaay blasted the ball home from just inside the area after Arsenal's Swedish international midfielder Fredrik Ljungberg had miscued a clearance of a Tristan pass and sent it straight to the Dutchman's feet.

Tristan, the Spanish first division's leading scorer, put the hosts two ahead after 25 minutes — an advantage they comfortably maintained until the break.

His fourth Champions' League goal in five games came from a right foot shot struck low and hard from 20 metres, which evaded the outstretched arms of Arsenal's diving goalkeeper Richard Wright.

However, some of the bite seemed to go out of the Deportivo attack when Tristan limped off two minutes later, with what a Deportivo official later called a minor hamstring twinge, to be replaced by former Spanish international Jose Emilio Amavisca.

Wenger replaced the demoralised Wright — who has made several dreadful errors since taking over from the injured first-choice David Seaman — with Stuart Taylor during the break.

However, Wenger insisted that the substitution was because Wright himself had been carrying an injury and was struggling with his fitness.

"He (Wright) felt his knee on the second goal so we decided to change. I don't know if Stuart Taylor will now play at the weekend (against Manchester United). Let's first try to see how bad the injuries are," commented Wenger.

Hagi remains Romania's coach

Gheorghe Hagi has held on to his job as Romanian coach despite the team's failure to qualify for next summer's World Cup finals.

Mircea Sandu, the president of the Romanian Football Federation (FRF), said that Hagi has been handed the task of leading the team in the quailifiers for Euro 2004.

"Hagi will be the coach until November 2003. If the team qualifies for the finals, his contract will be automatically extended," said Sandu.

Romania missed their chance to make it to the World Cup finals when they were defeated by Slovenia in a play-off.

Hagi, who inspired Romania to the 1994 World Cup quarter-finals, has been criticised for not going to watch players nor keeping in contact with coaches of the major European clubs where Romanian players are playing.

Panathinaikos midfielder, Paulo Sousa, (right) in action against Porto in last week's Champions League showdown.

13 VIE TO HOST 2008 EURO CUP

Thirteen countries have formally expressed an interest in hosting the 2008 European football championships, most of them as co-hosts in groups of two to four countries, UEFA announced last week.

European football's governing body said in a statement Scotland was considering teaming up with Ireland, leaving Hungary as the only European footballing nation offering to hold Euro 2008 on its own.

Denmark, Finland, Norway and Sweden have joined forces with an unprecedented four-country offer called "Nordic 2008".

UEFA said three of the preliminary bidders followed the example set by the Euro 2000 tournament, which was jointly hosted by Belgium and the Netherlands, to set up pairings of neighbouring countries.

They are Austria and Switzerland, Bosnia-Hercegovina and Croatia, as well as Greece and Turkey.

"UEFA has now received letters from six potential host country organisations for Euro 2008," spokesman Mike Lee said.

"So far we are very pleased with the level of interest shown in hosting Euro 2008 and it is clear that it will be a competitive bidding process," he added.

The Bosnia-Croatia pairing will have the benefit of symbolising an end to conflict in the Balkans region following the bloody break-up of Yugoslavia in the 1990s.

The Greece-Turkey bid attracted protests from Greek ultra-nationalists in Athens on Tuesday.

The two neighbours have had a historically tense relationship, coming to the brink of war several times in past decades, but the Euro 2008 offer is regarded as another step in recent months to try to seal a reconciliation between the countries.

After registering their formal interest by Tuesday's deadline, bidders will have to confirm their offer to UEFA by February 2002 once they receive more detailed conditions on Euro 2008.

A final choice will be made by UEFA in December 2002 after a review and inspection trips to the countries.

VOGTS DENIES EYEING SCOTLAND JOB

Former Germany coach Berti Vogts has denied that he had been negotiating to take over as Scotland's national coach.

Press reports had said that Vogts, who has recently taken charge of the Kuwait team, was being lined up to take over from Craig Brown who resigned as Scotland coach following the team's failure to reach next year's World Cup finals.

Berti Vogts

"These stories are false, they are just rumours," Vogts, 55, told a press conference in Kuwait.

Vogts, who was Germany coach from 1990 until 1998 winning the Euro 96 crown along the way, became Kuwait coach in August with a contract worth 160,000 dollars and a salary of 35,000 dollars a month.

He succeeded the Czech Republic's Dusan Uhrin who was sacked after the Gulf state had failed to make it out of the first round of Asian qualifiers for the World Cup.

Vogts, who won a World Cup winners medal with Germany in 1974, is preparing Kuwait for the Gulf Cup tournament which takes place in Saudi Arabia in January.

GIGGS OUT FOR 6 MONTHS

Ryan Giggs: Sidelined with injury.

Manchester United FC winger Ryan Giggs will have to miss the rest of this year's action due to another hamstring injury.

The Wales international sustained a hamstring injury during a training session ahead of United's Champions League clash against FC Bayern Munich last week.

The doctors ruled the 27-year-old striker out of action for six weeks.

United manager Sir Alex Ferguson sidelined him for the rest of this year's United clashes scheduling his provisional return on January 2.

Thus Giggs will have to miss the Red Devils' next nine fixtures, including Champions League tie against Boavista as well as Premiership's Arsenal and Chelsea fixtures.

Meanwhile, the Quinton Fortune replaced the injured winger against Champions League winners last week though United manager is likely to start Luke Chadwick in the first team.

Ginola wanted at Marseille

Olympique Marseille sports director Bernard Tapie has started negotiations with the former French international David Ginola, Le Parisien reported.

After Youri Djorkaeff and Mario Jardel, the name of David Ginola has been recently uttered regarding the forthcoming winter transfer campaign.

During the recent Rai jubilee held at PSG ground Parc de Princes, the former PSG striker claimed Bernard Tapie, who is in search of a forward, offered him a place in the Marseille side.

The Aston Villa forward had some problems with his side's board but recently he seems to have come to an agreement with the Premier League side chiefs.

Thus the major dilemma for the flamboyant Marseille sports director is a financial one: to sign the striker with the least possible financial loss to Marseille.

Meanwhile Ginola was signed from Tottenham to Aston Villa for 33 millions francs. Despite his age (33) Ginola can boast the Premier League 1999 best player title in addition to 17 caps for the French national team.

The Frenchman has repeatedly claimed he wished to finish his career in France. Could Olympique Marseille be his last side?

Bernard Tapie: Marseille boss.

RUSSO WRITES

By Joe Russo

After last year's scandals in the Italian league regarding use of banned substances, you would think that this year's offenders would get the book thrown at them. Last year there were some cases but the most famous culprit was Juventus and Dutch star, Edgar Davids.

This year it is Spanish international Josep Guardiola and Dutch international Jaap Stam. Both only joined the Serie A in recent months after somewhat surprising 'last-minute' transfers.

Guardiola has tested positive for the banned substance Nandrolone. This comes less than a week after the former Man Utd defender Stam was given an indefinite suspension for a 'non-negative' test also for Nandrolone.

Guardiola moved from Barcelona to Brescia, much to the surprise of many, and recorded the test after his team faced Piacenza on October 21. He has now been banned indefinitely by Italian Olympic authority CONI.

Stam moved from Man Utd to Lazio after falling out with Manager Sir Alex Ferguson following 'controversial' comments in his book. At the time he looked to be an excellent buy for Lazio. CONI will await the result of his second test before deciding on a definite outcome.

Both Stam and Guardiola have brought disgrace to the game in Italy and to themselves. Their respective short stints in the Serie A are turning into nightmares.

The problem with such high profile players using banned substances is the example they set to children, all over the world, who follow with interest the Serie A.

CONI should throw the book at both Guardiola and Stam and make an example of them. This would send a loud and clear message to any other potential drug cheats and to the children that follow the code.

Stam and Guardiola should receive at least a 12-month suspension and should be made to do 'community service' if they ever hope to play again in the Serie A again.

Alvaro Recoba, of Uruguay and Inter, is doing 'community service' for his involvement in the false-passports scandal of last year and these two should be made to follow suit. The alternative is to kiss their careers goodbye.

●●●●

Lazio seem interested in securing the services of the brilliant Michael Owen and who could blame. Lazio has been linked with the Liverpool star in the past, with speculation once suggesting they had paid $A3 million for the right to have first refusal on the striker should he ever want to leave Liverpool.

It is understood that Lazio President, Sergio Cragnotti, has decided that Owen is the man for the club, if you can believe the world's largest tabloid newspaper The Sun.

There can be no doubt that Owen is a valuable asset for the mighty Reds and would be equally valuable for Lazio. It will be interesting to see what unfolds.

●●●●

With all interest this last week surrounding the Australia v Uruguay World Cup qualifying clashes, it may be interesting to explore the 'Italian connections' with the Uruguay team. In other words which players ply their trade in the Serie A?

The obvious ones are Alvaro Recoba and Paolo Montero, but you can also add Fabian Carini, Javier Chevanton, Guillermo Giacomazzi, Federico Magallanes and Gianni Guigou.

Recoba of Inter has been in Italy since 1997/98, including a season with Venezia when Inter lent him to the little club. He has been very impressive at both Venezia, where he really established himself, and at Inter, and has scored a total of 21 goals in the Serie A in 65 appearances.

Montero of Juventus is a solid, non-nonsense style defender who has been with the club since 1996/97. He also played four seasons at Atalanta from 1992/93. He is the captain of Uruguay and a very valuable member of one of Italy's great clubs.

Carini is the young goalkeeper who plays (yet to make his debut in Serie A) with Juventus. With Italy's Gianluigi Buffon in goal for Juve, he will have to be content playing second fiddle.

Guigou is the Roma midfielder who is now in his second year at the club. He starts in most games but is yet to really make a name for himself.

Chevanton and Giacomazzi have both joined Lecce this year and both are in their very first year in Italy. They are both very valuable members of Lecce's current team.

And, finally, it is Magallanes. He is in his third Serie A season having played for two years at Atalanta from 1996 to 98. He then moved to Spain but is now back in Italy with Venezia and a valuable member of their team.

Juventus' forward, David Trezeguet and Lazio Rome's defender Fernando Couto fight for the ball.

RESURGENT ROMA!

BOLOGNA 1
AS ROMA 3

Roma's Argentine defender Walter Samuel opened the scoring in the third minute with a fine header from a Christian Panucci cross.

Compatriot Gabriel Batistuta doubled the advantage in the 16th minute after team mate Emerson split the Bologna defence with a neat through pass.

Bologna pulled a goal back in the 38th minute as Pierre Wome scored directly from a corner but five minutes before the break Roma restored their two-goal lead with a thundering 30-metre strike from Brazilian Assuncao.

Bologna's defence had conceded just six goals before Sunday but were unable to cope with a strong Roma attack.

BRESCIA 2
UDINESE 0

Udinese coach Roy Hodgson remains under pressure after his side fell to a 2-0 defeat at Brescia.

Federico Giunti and Antonio Filippini were on target for Carlo Mazzone's side.

CHIEVO 2
PERUGIA 0

A first-half penalty from Eugenio Corini and a second-half goal from Lorenzo D'Anna ensured that league leaders Chievo Verona grabbed their seventh win of the season.

The Verona side took the lead with Corini's penalty in the 27th minute after Argentine Martin Paris brought down Federico Cossato inside the area and was sent off.

Perugia were reduced to nine men seven minutes before the break when Salvatore Monaco was given a second yellow card after he was harshly judged to have handled the ball.

LAZIO 1
JUVENTUS 0

Fabio Liverani took advantage of a defensive error four minutes into the second half, lifting Lazio to their fourth win of the season.

Juventus midfielder Gianluca Zambrotta played a careless back pass to goalkeeper Gianluigi Buffon who was forced to rush out and head clear as two Lazio forwards rushed in.

With the Juventus goalkeeper stranded, Liverani fired the ball back into an unguarded net from 25 metres out for his third strike of the season.

PARMA 0
AC MILAN 1

AC Milan's Filippo Inzaghi showed himself a deadly predator inside the area as he slotted home a fine header from a Serginho free-kick in the 30th minute to help Milan to record their fifth win of the season.

Milan were forced to defend their lead with 10 men after they had Turkish midfielder Umit Davala sent off in the 66th minute for a wild challenge on Fabio Cannavaro.

PIACENZA 1
ATALANTA 2

Dario Hubner scored his league-leading ninth goal of the season from the penalty spot after seven minutes of play, giving Piacenza the lead but super striker Cristiano Doni scored two second-half goals as Atalanta came from behind to grab their fourth victory of the season.

Piacenza lost their third consecutive league match at home.

TORINO 5
VERONA 1

Verona suffered a 5-1 defeat to Torino despite leading at the break through Romanian striker Adrian Mutu.

Verona defender Natale Gonnella was sent off in the 42nd minute and the visitors were unable to cope in the second half as Torino scored three goals in six minutes.

Marco Ferrante scored twice, while Cristiano Lucarelli, Simone Vergassola and Fabio Galante each added a goal during Torino's second-half blitz.

VENEZIA 1
LECCE 1

Bottom club Venezia looked set for their first win of the season after Arturo Di Napoli gave them a 59th-minute lead against Lecce with a nice back-heel.

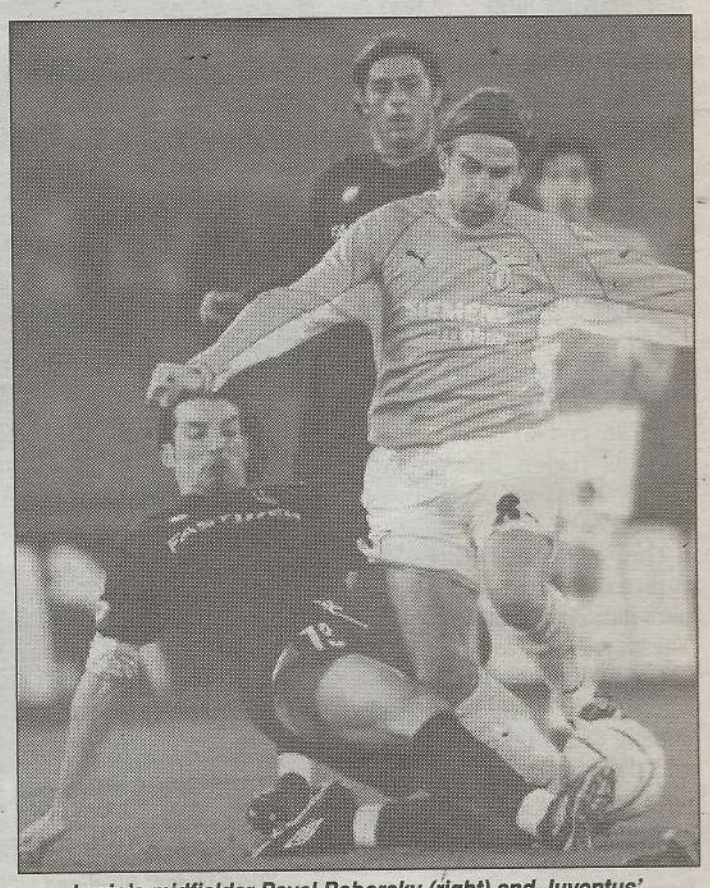
But Lecce's 18-year-old Ivory Coast striker Cedric Konan, making his Serie A debut, grabbed an equaliser in the 72nd minute.

THIS WEEK
(Sunday, December 2)

Atalanta vs Inter
Bologna vs Torino
Fiorentina vs Piacenza
Juventus vs Perugia
Lecce vs Lazio
AC Milan vs Chievo
AS Roma vs Venezia
Udinese vs Parma
Verona vs Brescia

Bologna 1 AS Roma 3, Brescia 2 Udinese 0, Chievo Verona 2 Perugia 0, Parma 0 AC Milan 1, Piacenza 1 Atalanta 2, Torino 5 Verona 1, Venezia 1 Lecce 1, Lazio 1 Juventus 0

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1. Chievo Verona	11	7	2	2	22	11	23
2. AS Roma	11	5	5	1	17	8	20
3. AC Milan	11	5	4	2	18	12	19
4. Inter Milan	10	5	4	1	15	9	19
5. Lazio	11	4	5	2	13	6	17
6. Juventus	11	4	5	2	17	11	17
7. Brescia	11	4	5	2	18	18	17
8. Bologna	11	5	2	4	8	9	17
9. Verona	11	4	4	3	15	16	16
10. Atalanta	11	4	2	5	12	18	14
11. Torino	11	3	4	4	14	16	13
12. Lecce	11	3	4	4	12	16	13
13. Udinese	11	3	3	5	17	19	12
14. Parma	11	2	5	4	11	14	11
15. Perugia	11	2	4	5	9	14	10
16. Fiorentina	10	3	1	6	14	21	10
17. Piacenza	11	2	3	6	13	16	9
18. Venezia	11	0	4	7	6	17	4

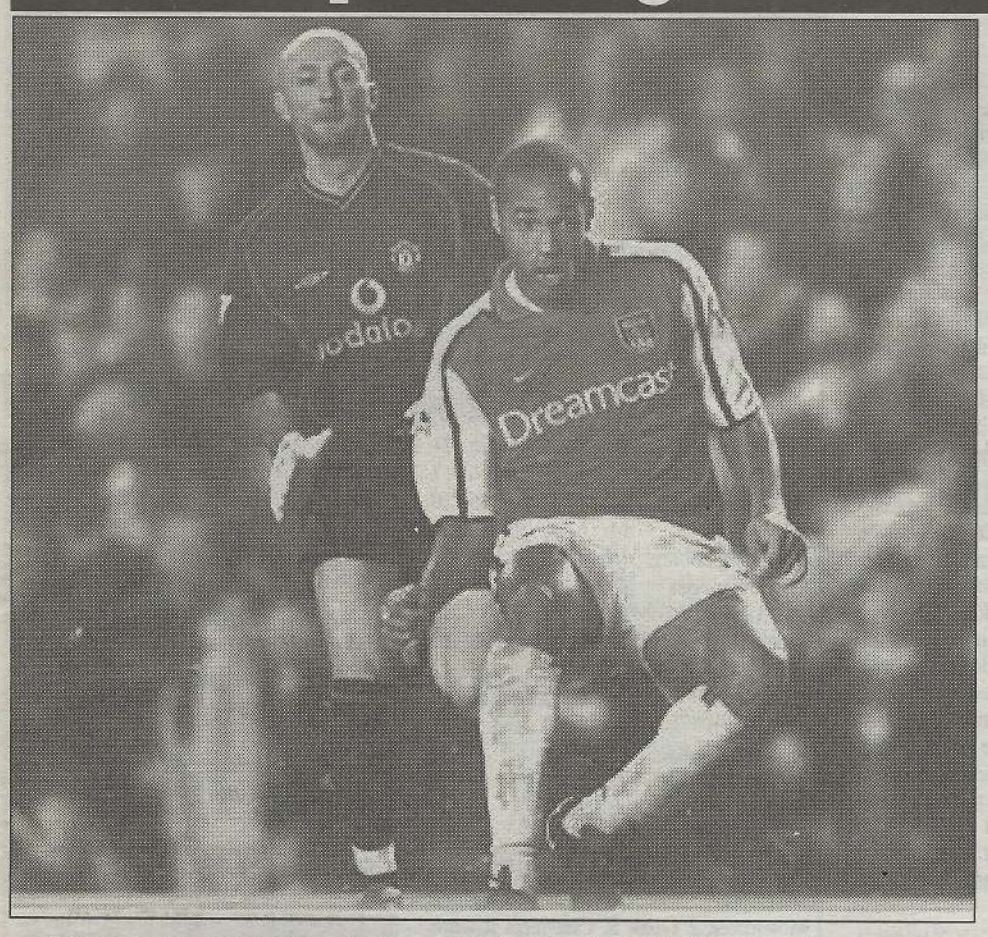


Lazio's midfielder Pavel Poborsky (right) and Juventus' midfielder Gianluca Zambrotta fight for the ball.

ENGLAND

THE F.A. PREMIER LEAGUE

Champions gunned down



Thierry Henry of Arsenal beats Manchester Keeper Fabien Barthez during the Arsenal - Manchester United game.

ARSENAL 3
MAN UTD 1

Manchester United's error-strewn campaign took another twist on Sunday after two howlers from goalkeeper Fabien Barthez handed Arsenal a 3-1 victory over the champions.

At Highbury, United had turned round 1-0 up at half-time after carving out a superb 14th-minute goal for Paul Scholes.

But England right-back Gary Neville started the rot, giving the ball away deep in his own half for Robert Pires to feed Freddie Ljungberg for an exquisite chipped equaliser three minutes after the break.

Despite severe pressure from the home side, a rain-soaked match seemed destined for a draw until Thierry Henry pounced on Barthez's scuffed 80th-minute clearance before the France keeper spilled the ball to give his international colleague the simplest of killer goals.

LIVERPOOL 1
SUNDERLAND 0

Elsewhere, leaders Liverpool shrugged off the controversial first-half dismissal of Dietmar Hamann to hold on for a 1-0 win over Sunderland.

Emile Heskey's 22nd-minute header put the Merseysiders in command at Anfield but Germany midfielder Hamann walked for a two-footed lunge on Bernt Haas moments before the break.

Liverpool's ten men had little trouble protecting their lead but that didn't prevent angry scenes at full-time as caretaker Reds boss Phil Thompson told Swiss defender Haas exactly what he thought of his theatrical role in the dismissal.

LEEDS UTD 1
ASTON VILLA 1

Leeds lost ground at the top as striker Alan Smith was also sent off after scoring the opener in a 1-1 draw with Aston Villa at Elland Road.

Alan Wright's poor back-pass allowed Robbie Keane to free Smith to score in the 12th minute, but the temperamental England striker then saw red after his third clash with Turkish defender Ozalan Alpay. Moroccan midfielder Hassan Kachloul rubbed salt in the wounds by scoring the leveller ten minutes before half-time.

MIDDLESBROUGH 0
IPSWICH 0

Strugglers Ipswich ground out a point with a goalless draw at Middlesbrough.

Pablo Counago and defender Hermann Hreidarsson hit the woodwork late on, but Town remain bottom despite their previous Thursday night's UEFA Cup heroics against Inter Milan.

SOUTHAMPTON 1
CHARLTON 0

Southampton finally recorded a first win at their new St Mary's home at the sixth attempt and after four previous defeats.

Marian Pahars' 59th-minute bullet header was enough for a 1-0 victory over Charlton, Saints first under Gordon Strachan, lifting them from the bottom of the Premiership.

NEWCASTLE UTD 1
DERBY COUNTY 0

Newcastle stumbled to a 1-0 win over Derby, former England captain Alan Shearer scoring with a penalty while Republic of Ireland keeper Shay Given saved a second-half spot-kick from Rams striker Fabrizio Ravanelli.

WESTHAM 0
TOTTENHAM 1

The top flight's only other Saturday goal came from Shearer's former Magpies strike partner Les Ferdinand, whose 50th-minute goal gave Tottenham all three points at London rivals West Ham.

CHELSEA 0
BLACBURN ROVERS 0

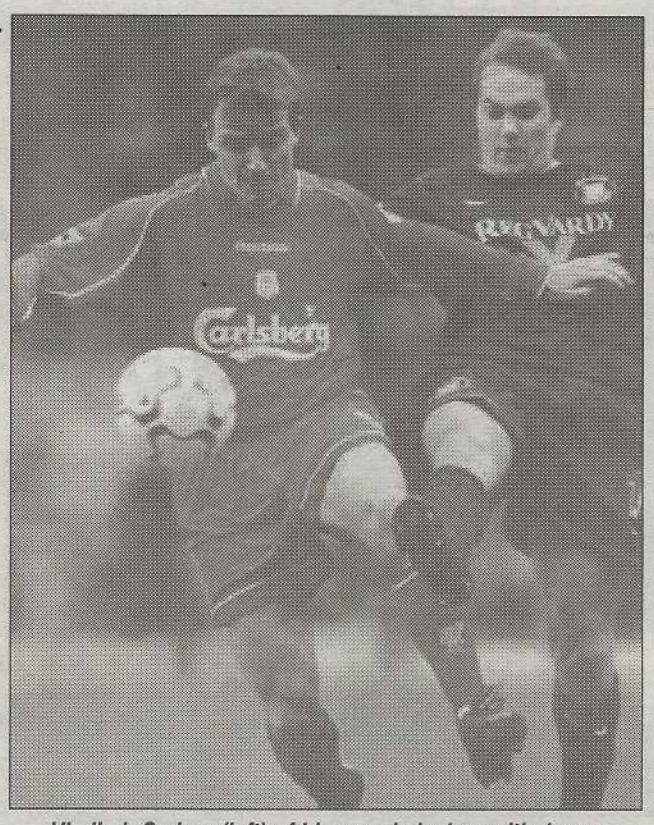
Boos rang around Stamford Bridge as lacklustre Chelsea were held to a second successive goalless draw, this time by Blackburn Rovers.

BOLTON WANDERERS 0
FULHAM 0

Last season's play-off winners Bolton had the better chances at the Reebok Stadium, but Nationwide League champions Fulham held out for a point.

LEICESTER 0
EVERTON 0

Leicester's Jamie Scowcroft missed the best chance at Filbert Street as the Foxes and Everton played out the day's other blank.



Vladimir Smicer (left) of Liverpool clashes with Jason McAteer of Sunderland.

THIS WEEK

(Saturday, December 1)

Aston Villa vs Leicester
Tottenham vs Bolton
Blackburn vs Middlesbrough
Charlton vs Newcastle
Derby vs Liverpool
Everton vs Southampton
Fulham vs Leeds
Ipswich vs Arsenal
Manchester Utd vs Chelsea
Sunderland vs West Ham

PREMIER DIVISION

Arsenal 3 Manchester Utd 1, Leeds United 1 Aston Villa 1, Middlesbrough 0 Ipswich Town 0, Liverpool 1 Sunderland 0, Bolton Wanderers 0 Fulham 0, Chelsea 0 Blackburn Rovers 0, Leicester City 0 Everton 0, Newcastle United 1 Derby County 0, Southampton 1 Charlton Athletic 0, West Ham 0 Tottenham Hotspur 1.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pt
Liverpool	**12**	**8**	**2**	**2**	**22**	**11**	**26**
Leeds Utd	13	6	6	1	16	8	24
Arsenal	13	6	5	2	28	15	23
Newcastle Utd	13	7	2	4	23	17	23
Aston Villa	13	6	5	2	18	12	23
Manchester Utd	13	6	3	4	31	23	21
Tottenham	14	6	3	5	21	18	21
Chelsea	13	4	8	1	16	11	20
Bolton Wanderers	14	5	5	4	18	17	20
Blackburn Rovers	14	4	7	3	21	16	19
Fulham	13	4	6	3	15	13	18
Everton	13	4	5	4	18	17	17
Sunderland	14	4	4	6	12	15	16
Middlesbrough	14	4	4	6	16	20	16
West Ham Utd	13	4	3	6	16	26	15
Charlton	13	3	5	5	16	18	14
Southampton	13	3	1	9	11	22	10
Derby County	13	2	4	7	10	23	10
Leicester City	14	2	4	8	7	25	10
Ipswich Town	14	1	6	7	14	22	9

DIVISION ONE

Watford 3 Portsmouth 0, Birmingham 2 Coventry 0, Crewe 0 Nottingham Forest 3, Manchester City 2 Rotherham 1, Millwall 1 Gillingham 2, West Bromwich 1 Bradford 0, Wimbledon 0 Wolverhampton 1, Norwich 2 Barnsley 1, Preston 2 Crystal Palace 1, Sheffield Wednesday 5 Stockport 0, Walsall 1 Sheffield United 2, Burnley 1 Grimsby 0.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1. Burnley	**21**	**12**	**4**	**5**	**40**	**28**	**40**
2. Wolverhampton	19	11	5	3	29	14	38
3. Norwich	21	11	3	7	29	27	36
4. Preston	21	9	8	4	35	25	35
5. West Bromwich	20	11	2	7	24	18	35
6. Crystal Palace	19	11	1	7	42	28	34
7. Manchester City	19	10	3	6	45	29	33
8. Millwall	19	9	4	6	33	23	31
9. Coventry	19	9	4	6	22	18	31
10. Portsmouth	20	8	6	6	30	27	30
11. Birmingham	20	8	5	7	31	28	29
12. Bradford	21	8	5	8	39	38	29
13. Watford	20	8	4	8	33	26	28
14. Nottingham Forest	20	7	7	6	22	18	28
15. Wimbledon	21	6	8	7	35	33	26
16. Sheffield United	21	6	8	7	22	25	26
17. Gillingham	20	7	4	9	29	29	25
18. Rotherham	21	5	7	9	26	34	22
19. Sheffield Wednesday	21	5	7	9	24	32	22
20. Crewe	21	5	7	9	19	34	22
21. Walsall	21	5	5	11	23	34	20
22. Grimsby	21	5	5	11	21	39	20
23. Barnsley	20	3	6	11	22	43	15
24. Stockport	20	2	6	12	21	46	12

SECOND DIVISION

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
BRIGHTON	**20**	**11**	**7**	**2**	**28**	**15**	**40**
STOKE CITY	20	12	4	4	29	17	40
BRENTFORD	19	11	6	2	36	17	39
READING	20	12	2	6	30	20	38
BRISTOL CITY	20	9	5	6	29	21	32
WYCOMBE WANDERERS	20	8	8	4	27	20	32
HUDDERSFIELD	20	8	6	6	29	22	30
OLDHAM ATHLETIC	20	7	8	5	34	25	29
TRANMERE ROVERS	20	8	5	7	37	31	29
CARDIFF CITY	19	7	8	4	27	21	29
QUEENS PARK RANGERS	20	8	5	7	27	22	29
PETERBOROUGH UTD	20	8	3	9	29	27	27
COLCHESTER UTD	20	8	3	9	31	31	27
BLACKPOOL	20	7	6	7	27	32	27
BOURNEMOUTH	20	7	5	8	25	29	26
SWINDON TOWN	19	6	6	7	19	26	24
PORT VALE	20	6	5	9	24	27	23
WIGAN ATHLETIC	19	6	4	9	29	27	22
CHESTERFIELD	20	5	6	9	23	27	21
BURY	20	6	3	11	21	34	21
NOTTS COUNTY	19	4	7	8	23	32	19
WREXHAM	19	4	4	11	23	43	16
CAMBRIDGE UNITED	20	3	6	11	20	40	15
NORTHAMPTON TOWN	20	4	2	14	18	39	14

WORLD

Spanish Primera Liga

Real Madrid scorer, Fernando Morientes(right) evades the tackles of a Vallecano defender.

MADRID BLAST RAYO AWAY!

Two goals from Spanish international striker Fernando Morientes helped Real Madrid to a 3-0 win over Rayo Vallecano in their local derby on Sunday.

Raul Gonzalez got the defending Spanish champions off to a good start, heading home his sixth league goal of the season from a Morientes cross after just two minutes.

Morientes found the net after 27 and 68 minutes to emphasis the gulf between the haves and have-nots in the top flight of Spanish soccer.

Alaves went down 1-0 at Villarreal but stay in second place thanks to superior goal difference over Real Betis, who won 2-1 away at Osasuna.

The Basque visitors controlled the game for long periods, especially during the second half, but Villarreal were handed all three points when Victor Fernandez found the net seven minutes before the break.

Villarreal's Romanian midfielder Constantin Galca sent the ball into the area and the ball skimed off the head of team mate Rodolfo Arruabarrena before falling favourably for Victor.

Two goals in four minutes gave Betis only their second away victory of the season at Osasuna. Osasuna defender Mariano Armentano headed the ball into his own goal to give Betis the lead after 55 minutes and their second came soon afterwards thanks to an individual effort from Betis midfielder Juan Jose Canas.

Ivan Rosado pulled one back for the hosts with 14 minutes to play but Betis held on, despite some late pressure from Osasuna to rescue a point from an often fractious game which saw eight bookings.

Valencia's unbeaten record came to an end in San Sebastian as Edgaras Jankauskas buried current off-the-field worries to fire a brace of goals for Real Sociedad who ran out 2-0 winners.

Jankauskas, who is transfer listed after his public criticisms of coach John Toshack, finished off a spectacular cross from Javier De Pedro for the first goal after 38 minutes.

The Lithuanian striker got his second from the penalty spot on 65 minutes after Valencia's Roberto Ayala had brought down Agustin Aranzabal.

The impressive victory will ease the pressure, at least temporarily, on Toshack after recent calls for him to be sacked after the string of poor results, which sees them threatened with relegation for the first time in more than 30 years.

Sevilla got their biggest victory since their return to the top flight when last season's second division champions thrashed Valladolid 4-0.

Moises Garcia put the Andalusian side in front with a penalty after 31 minutes but the goal rush started in earnest in the second half, once Valladolid were reduced to ten men following the dismissal of defender Torres Gomez after his second yellow card on 53 minutes.

Less than two minutes later 18 year-old midfielder Reyes Calderon put Sevilla 2-0 ahead while Francisco Casquero grabbed two more in the final half hour to complete a good day's work for the hosts.

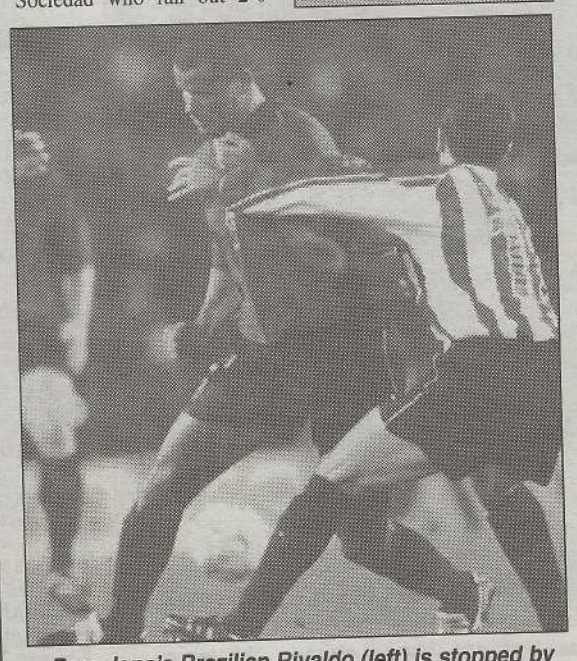
Celta Vigo 4 Espanyol 1, Osasuna 1 Real Betis 2, Rayo Vallecano 0 Real Madrid 3, Real Sociedad 2 Valencia 0, Real Zaragoza 2 Las Palmas 1, Sevilla 4 Valladolid 0, Tenerife 1 Malaga 0, Villarreal 1 Alaves 0, Real Mallorca 4 Deportivo Coruna 1, Barcelona 1 Athletic Bilbao 2.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Deportivo Coruna	**14**	**8**	**2**	**4**	**28**	**20**	**26**
Alaves	14	7	3	4	15	9	24
Real Betis	14	7	3	4	17	13	24
Barcelona	14	6	5	3	22	11	23
Valencia	14	5	8	1	14	10	23
Athletic Bilbao	14	6	5	3	19	18	23
Real Madrid	14	6	4	4	25	18	22
Celta Vigo	14	5	6	3	26	17	21
Villarreal	14	6	3	5	15	12	21
Sevilla	14	5	5	4	23	17	20
Real Zaragoza	14	6	2	6	14	17	20
Valladolid	14	5	3	6	15	24	18
Real Mallorca	14	5	2	7	15	20	17
Tenerife	14	5	2	7	11	16	17
Espanyol	14	5	2	7	18	25	17
Malaga	14	4	4	6	16	20	16
Las Palmas	14	4	3	7	15	14	15
Osasuna	14	4	3	7	12	20	15
Real Sociedad	14	4	2	8	16	23	14
Rayo Vallecano	14	3	1	10	14	26	10

THIS WEEKEND

(Sunday, December 2)

Celta Vigo vs Villarreal
Alaves vs Barcelona
Athletic Bilbao vs Real Zaragoza
Las Palmas vs Sevilla
Valladolid vs Rayo Vallecano
Real Madrid vs Osasuna
Betis Sevilla vs Tenerife
Malaga vs Real Sociedad
Valencia vs Mallorca
Espanyol vs Deportivo Coruna



Barcelona's Brazilian Rivaldo (left) is stopped by Athletic de Bilbao's Jose Maria Lacruz.

WORLD LEAGUES

DUTCH EREDIVISIE

NEC Nijmegen 0 Utrecht 3, Feyenoord 3 Willem II Tilburg 1, Ajax 1 PSV Eindhoven 3, Fortuna Sittard 1 RKC Waalwijk 4, NAC Breda 5 Groningen 0, Twente Enschede 0 Heerenveen 0, Graafschap 3 Sparta Rotterdam 0, Vitesse Arnhem 2 Roda JC 0, AZ Alkmaar 3 Den Bosch 2.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Feyenoord	**12**	**9**	**1**	**2**	**28**	**8**	**28**
Ajax Amsterdam	13	8	2	3	28	16	26
Vitesse Arnhem	14	7	5	2	15	7	26
Heerenveen	14	7	4	3	26	10	25
NAC Breda	14	7	3	4	25	21	24
Utrecht	14	7	2	5	26	17	23
PSV Eindhoven	14	7	2	5	25	20	23
RKC Waalwijk	14	6	2	6	19	16	20
Willem II Tilburg	14	4	6	4	20	21	18
NEC Nijmegen	14	5	3	6	12	22	18
AZ Alkmaar	14	5	2	7	17	18	17
Graafschap	14	5	2	7	18	25	17
Twente Enschede	13	3	6	4	14	17	15
Groningen	14	4	2	8	16	27	14
Den Bosch	14	2	7	5	18	22	13
Sparta Rotterdam	14	3	4	7	14	31	13
Roda JC Kerkrade	14	3	3	8	14	21	12
Fortuna Sittard	12	2	2	8	12	28	8

Tomas Galasek of Ajax passes the ball during a league game over the weekend.

BELGIAN ERSTEKLASSE

Molenbeek 2 Genk 5, Charleroi 0 Club Bruges 4, Standard Liege 2 Lierse 1, Sint-Truiden 0 Anderlecht 2, Mouscron 2 La Louviere 0, Westerlo 2 Antwerp 1, Lokeren 1 Beveren 0, Lommel 1 Aalst 1, Beerschot 3 Ghent 2.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1. Club Bruges	**12**	**10**	**1**	**1**	**32**	**11**	**31**
2. Ghent	13	9	2	2	26	16	29
3. Genk	13	8	4	1	38	17	28
4. Lokeren	13	8	1	4	20	12	25
5. Anderlecht	12	6	4	2	25	14	22
6.Beerschot	14	6	4	4	31	22	22
7. Standard Liege	12	6	4	2	18	13	22
8. Mouscron	13	6	0	7	25	16	18
9. Sint-Truiden	13	5	3	5	21	20	18
10. Charleroi	13	5	2	6	12	20	17
11. Westerlo	12	4	2	6	18	19	14
12. Lommel	13	3	5	5	22	30	14
13. Eendracht	13	4	2	7	13	30	14
14. Lierse	13	3	4	6	15	19	13
15. Antwerp	14	3	2	9	18	26	11
16. Molenbeek	13	3	2	8	15	25	11
17. La Louviere	13	2	2	9	12	29	8
18. Beveren	13	1	4	8	10	32	7

Club Brugge's Olivier De Cock, (right) goes up against an opponent in Brugge, Belgium.

GREEK FIRST DIVISION

Panionios 2 Panachaiki 1, Aegaleo 2 Ionikos 2, AEK Athens 3 Akratitos 0, Iraklis 2 Panathinaikos 1, Xanthi 1 PAOK Salonika 0, Ethnikos Asteras 2 Olympiakos 4, Aris Salonika 1 OFI Crete 0.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
AEK Athens	**7**	**6**	**0**	**1**	**14**	**3**	**18**
Olympiakos	7	5	2	0	20	7	17
Aris Salonika	7	3	3	1	9	6	12
Panathinaikos	7	3	2	2	17	8	11
Xanthi	7	3	2	2	9	7	11
Iraklis	7	3	2	2	9	10	11
OFI Crete	7	3	1	3	7	8	10
PAOK Salonika	7	2	3	2	9	9	9
Akratitos	7	2	2	3	8	9	8
Ethnikos Asteras	7	2	2	3	8	11	8
Panionios	7	1	4	2	9	11	7
Ionikos	7	0	4	3	6	13	4
Panachaiki	7	1	1	5	7	20	4
Aegaleo	7	0	2	5	9	19	2

WORLD

SCOTTISH PREMIER LEAGUE

CELTICH CRUSH RANGERS AGAIN

A Joos Valgaeren goal and a Henrik Larsson penalty gave Celtic a 2-1 win over Rangers on Sunday and allowed them to open up a 10-point lead at the top of the Scottish Premier League.

Celtic, seeking a second successive league title, secured a fifth derby success in a row against their Glasgow rivals in front of 59,609 fans at Celtic Park.

Substitute Peter Lovenkrands grabbed a goal back for second-placed Rangers in the 77th minute but it was too late for his side to change the outcome. After their 11th win in a row, Celtic now have 43 points from 15 games and remain unbeaten in the league this season.

Even without influential striker Chris Sutton, who was at the hospital bedside of his seriously ill baby son, and French winger Didier Agathe, who tore knee ligaments last week, Celtic maintained their supremacy in Old Firm games since manager Martin O'Neill arrived 16 months ago. It was the sixth win in seven derbies since O'Neill took charge.

Rangers' frustration boiled over when defender Michael Ball had a furious row with trainer Dick Advocaat after being substituted in the 74th minute.

The England international did not want to come off for Lovenkrands and had an angry exchange of words with Advocaat before disappearing into the tunnel.

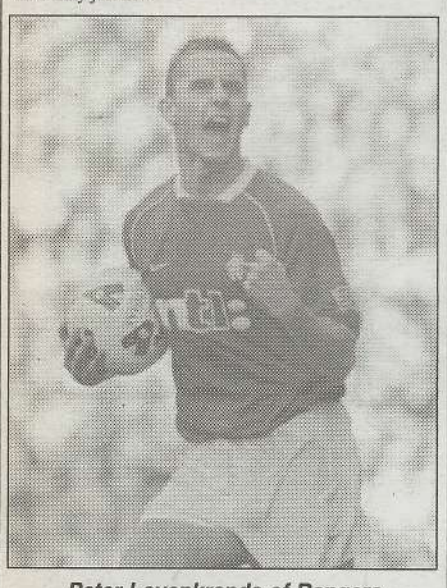
``I decide who stays on the pitch," Advocaat said later. ``Players get well paid and I expect them to behave themselves." Rangers paid the price for failing to cash in on several chances in the first half. Tore Andre Flo hit the post after 21 minutes with a left-foot shot and Celtic goalkeeper Robert Douglas made a fine save from Ronald de Boer's shot after Shota Arveladze had put the Dutchman clear. Celtic went in front in the 58th minute when Stilian Petrov's free kick was headed down by Bobo Balde and Valgaeren slid in to shoot past Stefan Klos.

Klos was beaten again 12 minutes later when Larsson was brought down by Bert Konterman and hit a right-foot penalty past the goalkeeper. Lovenkrands reduced the deficit in the 76th minute when he shot Claudio Caniggia's low cross past Douglas. O'Neill said it was too early to write off Rangers for the season. ``There are still two more derbies to play this season and Rangers are playing well right now so there is no arrogance in our dressing-room.

``We really had to weather a storm from Rangers in the first half and had a bit of luck when Flo hit the post. We took our goals at just the right time."

Midfielder Neil Lennon said the Celtic squad had dedicated their victory to the absent Sutton, whose two-month-old son James, born 11 weeks premature, was rushed into hospital last week.

``It would be impossible for him to concentrate on anything other than his baby right now," Lennon said. ``Chris has has had a great season for us and is a big character in the dressing room and we missed him but he has to be there for his family just now."



Peter Lovenkrands of Rangers celebrates scoring during the Celtic — Rangers match

Celtic 2 Rangers, Dundee 1 Hearts 1, Dunfermline Athletic 1 Dundee United 1, Hibernian 0 Livingston 3, Motherwell 3 Aberdeen 2, St Johnstone 1 Kilmarnock 0.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1. Celtic	15	14	1	0	34	6	43
2. Rangers	15	10	3	2	36	11	33
3. Livingston	15	8	5	2	23	11	29
4. Aberdeen	16	8	2	6	26	24	26
5. Dundee United	16	5	5	6	19	29	20
6. Dundee	16	5	4	7	16	25	19
7. Hibernian	15	5	3	7	24	24	18
8. Kilmarnock	16	5	3	8	15	20	18
9. Hearts	16	5	2	9	19	22	17
10. Dunfermline	16	5	1	10	21	32	16
11. Motherwell	16	4	4	8	19	30	16
12. St Johnstone	16	2	3	11	12	30	9

FRENCH CHAMPIONAT

Olympique de Marseille's Ibrahima Bakayoko (right) vies with Sochaux's Jose Maria Quevedo.

LYON PLAY CATCH-UP

Lens held off the pressure from an enterprising Troyes team to hold on to their lead at the top of the French league Saturday as Marseille and Sedan scored emphatic home wins to boost their league ambitions.

Lens, the northern club who last won the title in 1998, opened the scoring through playmaker Daniel Moreira in their 1-1 draw with Troyes who hit back five minutes after the break.

Troyes equalised through Swiss Fabio Celestini on 50 minutes to grab a valuable away point.

Marseille turned the tables on their disappointing campaign so far to register their fourth win in 15 starts with a 4-2 victory over visiting Sochaux.

Ibrahim Bakayoko finally came good on his goalscoring potential to bag a brace and help lift the Marseille morale ahead of the trip to Paris St Germain on Thursday.

Sochaux, however, opened the scoring through midfielder Camel Meriem who pounced on a Marseille blunder to score in the 18th minute.

Marseille did not wait long to equalise, with Andre Luis latching on to an Ibrahim Ba cross at the far post to beat 'keeper Vincent Fernandez.

Marseille 'keeper Vedran Runje then blocked a penalty from Sochaux forward Mickael Pagis and Bakayoko sprinkled some more fairy dust on the encounter with his fifth and sixth goals of the season - in between which Pagis had made up for his first half penalty miss to give Sochaux a brief lifeline.

Sochaux missed a golden chance to level it in the 72nd minute and were rueing their miss less than 10 minutes later when Bakayoko put through Polish midfielder Piotr Swierczewski who fired easily past Fernandez.

It was a similar story at Sedan who dished out a 5-0 thrashing to their visitors Lorient.

However this time round a couple of errors gave the visitors a testing time in the Ardennes, with defender Arnaud Le Lan credited with the first own goal of the match after 12 minutes.

Lively Cameroonian forward Pius N'Diefi stayed true to his form to send a blistering shot home from 30 yards out on 24 minutes for the second.

Lorient's leaky defence - the worse in the league with 31 conceded so far - was sliced opened again, twice in the space of four minutes, as Henry Camara scored a brace on 30 and 34 to make it 4-0.

Camara was again instrumental in the fifth goal, forcing Gauvin into scoring into his own net to complete the humiliation.

Frustration, not humiliation, was the word at Metz as former France international stalwart Didier Deschamps, now coach of struggling Monaco, saw his side go down 1-0 to a last-gasp goal.

Elsewhere ex-Lyon forward Tony Vairelles scored a late consolation goal for Bastia as the Corsicans attempted to get out of a hole dug for them by Bordeaux's free-scoring Portuguese international Pauleta who scored either side of each half for a 2-1 win.

Lille 1 Stade Rennes 0, Nantes 1 Paris St Germain 2, Olympique Marseille 4 Sochaux 2, Troyes 1 RC Lens 1, Sedan 5 Lorient 0, 1 Monaco 0 En Avant Guingamp 2, Montpellier 2, Bastia 1 Girondins Bordeaux 2.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1. RC Lens	15	9	5	1	23	12	32
2. Lyon	15	9	3	3	31	13	30
3. Lille	15	8	5	2	18	11	29
4. AJ Auxerre	15	7	5	3	22	17	26
5. Bordeaux	15	6	6	3	13	9	24
6. Troyes	15	7	3	5	20	17	24
7. Sochaux	15	6	5	4	23	18	23
8. St Germain	15	5	8	2	18	13	23
9. Olym. Marseille	15	4	6	5	13	13	18
10. Stade Rennes	15	5	2	8	16	25	17
11. En Avant	15	4	5	6	14	24	17
12. Monaco	15	4	4	7	14	16	16
13. Montpellier	15	3	7	5	12	14	16
14. Bastia	15	5	1	9	15	20	16
15. Metz	15	5	1	9	9	16	16
16. Lorient	15	4	3	8	22	30	15
17. Sedan	15	3	5	7	17	19	14
18. Nantes	15	2	4	9	10	22	10

GERMAN BUNDESLIGA

RUTHLESS KAISERS

Late goals from Brazilian strikers Ewerthon and Marcio Amoroso helped Borussia Dortmund crush Kaiserslautern 3-0 on Sunday and move into third place in the German first division.

Ewerthon showed Dortmund the way in the 77th minute before a penalty 10 minutes later and a goal in the dying moments from Amoroso completed the home side's victory.

Amoroso's double strike took him to the top of the Bundesliga's scorers table with nine goals.

The 1997 European champions moved into third place, leapfrogging Kaiserslautern who are now fourth.

Dortmund are five points from leaders Bayer Leverkusen, who beat Hamburg SV 4-1 on Saturday, and just one behind second-placed Bayern Munich.

Defending champions Bayern, who play Boca Juniors in the World Club Cup on Tuesday in Tokyo, managed only a 0-0 home draw with lowly Nuremberg on Saturday to drop four points back. TSV 1860 Munich recorded their second consecutive away victory when they won 3-1 at SC Freiburg in the other match played on Sunday.

Goals from Bulgarian midfielder Daniel Borimirov and playmaker Thomas Haessler, who was outstanding throughout, saw the ``Lions" lead 2-1 at the interval.

Striker Markus Schroth added another after the break for the ``other" Munich club, now ninth in the table one spot above Freiburg, whose first-half goal came through midfielder Andreas Zeyer.

Meanwhile Bayer Leverkusen thrashed Hamburg 4-1. Former Rangers midfielder Joerg Albertz opened the scoring for the visitors after seven minutes but Leverkusen fought back with goals from German internationals Michael Ballack and Oliver Neuville to lead 2-1 at the interval.

Neuville completed a hat-trick with two goals in the second half to seal a victory which extended Leverkusen's unbeaten run to 14 league games and lifted them four points clear of second-placed Bayern.

(L-R) Bayer Leverkusen's Ulf Kirsten, Michael Ballack and Carsten Ramelow (right) celebrate with teammate Oliver Neuville's (2nd right) against Hamburger.

SC Freiburg 1 Munich 3, Borussia Dortmund 3 Kaiserslautern 0, Bayern Munich 0 Nuremberg 0, VfL Wolfsburg 3 Bor. Moenchengladbach 1, Energie Cottbus 0 VfB Stuttgart 0, FC St Pauli 1 Cologne 2, Bayer Leverkusen 4 Hamburg SV 1, Schalke 04 1 Werder Bremen 4, Hansa Rostock 1 Hertha Berlin 1.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Bayer Leverkusen	14	11	3	0	37	15	36
Bayern Munich	14	10	2	2	30	5	32
Borussia Dortmund	14	10	1	3	24	9	31
Kaiserslautern	14	9	1	4	30	20	28
Werder Bremen	14	8	2	4	22	15	26
Hertha Berlin	14	7	3	4	23	18	24
VfB Stuttgart	14	6	4	4	17	14	22
Schalke 04	14	6	4	4	16	17	22
1860 Munich	14	5	2	7	19	27	17
SC Freiburg	14	4	4	6	19	23	16
Wolfsburg	14	4	3	7	21	20	15
Borussia M'bach	14	3	5	6	16	21	14
Hamburg SV	14	3	4	7	15	22	13
Hansa Rostock	14	3	4	7	12	20	13
Energie Cottbus	14	3	4	7	13	25	13
Nuremberg	14	3	2	9	10	24	11
Cologne	14	3	2	9	11	26	11
FC St Pauli	14	1	4	9	13	27	7

WORLD LEAGUES

CROATIAN FIRST DIVISION

Osijek 1 Hajduk 2,Pomorac 2 Zadar 0, Sibenik 1 Cibalia 1, Kamen Ingrad 1 Varteks 2, Slaven Belupo 2 Rijeka 2, Hrv. Dragovoljac 0 Zagreb 1, Cakovec 3 Marsonia 1, Dinamo 3 TSK 2.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Zagreb	16	12	3	1	43	15	39
Varteks	16	11	2	3	36	18	35
Hajduk	15	11	1	3	34	17	34
Dinamo	16	9	3	4	26	17	30
Rijeka	16	9	3	4	26	17	30
Slaven Belupo	16	6	6	4	19	16	24
Pomorac	16	6	2	8	19	21	20
Hrv. Dragovoljac	16	5	5	6	20	24	20
Cakovec	16	5	4	7	16	23	19
Zadar	16	4	6	6	20	27	18
Marsonia	16	5	2	9	19	23	17
Osijek	15	5	1	9	21	26	16
Kamen Ingrad	16	3	5	8	14	26	14
TSK	16	4	2	10	25	43	14
Sibenik	16	3	4	9	11	25	13
Cibalia	15	3	3	10	12	23	12

YUGOSLAV FIRST DIVISION

Mladost Apatin 0 Zeleznik Belgrade 0, Cukaricki Belgrade 1 Zeta Golubovci 1, Red Star Belgrade 3 Rudar Pljevlja 1, Beograd Belgrade 1 Partizan Belgrade, Zvezdara Belgrade 1 Radnicki Kragujevac 1, Vojvodina Novi Sad 0 Mladost Lucani 1, Rad Belgrade 1 Zemun Belgrade 2, Sartid Smederevo 2 Hajduk Kula 0, Obilic Belgrade 2 Sutjeska Niksic 1.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Partizan Belgrade	14	9	4	1	29	14	31
Obilic Belgrade	14	9	3	2	29	16	30
Red Star Belgrade	14	7	6	1	20	11	27
Sartid Smederevo	14	7	3	4	15	12	24
Vojvodina Novi Sad	14	5	8	1	15	9	23
Zemun Belgrade	14	5	4	5	15	14	19
Hajduk Kula	14	5	4	5	15	15	19
Zeleznik Belgrade	14	5	3	6	17	18	18
Zeta Golubovci	14	5	3	6	15	24	18
Zvezdara Belgrade	14	4	5	5	17	15	17
OFK B. Belgrade	14	4	4	6	20	16	16
Rad Belgrade	14	4	4	6	16	17	16
Rudar Pljevlja	14	4	4	6	11	12	16
Mladost Lucani	14	4	4	6	13	16	16
Sutjeska Niksic	14	4	2	8	9	19	14
Cukaricki Belgrade	14	3	4	7	14	18	13
Mladost Apatin	14	2	6	6	14	26	12
Kragujevac	14	2	5	7	10	22	11

PORTUGUESE FIRST DIVISION

Uniao Leiria 3 Belenenses 0, Farense 1 Beira Mar 0, Pacos Ferreira 2 Maritimo 1, Alverca 1 Salgueiros 2, Braga 0 Benfica 1, Vitoria Guimaraes 0 Vitoria Setubal 0.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Boavista	11	8	1	2	23	8	25
Benfica	12	6	6	0	20	11	24
Porto	11	7	1	3	20	8	22
Sporting	11	6	2	3	25	10	20
Maritimo	12	6	0	6	17	14	18
Vitoria Guimaraes	12	5	3	4	13	14	18
Uniao Leiria	12	4	5	3	17	10	17
Belenenses	12	5	2	5	16	18	17
Beira Mar	12	4	4	4	24	22	16
Vitoria Setubal	12	4	3	5	17	15	15
Braga	12	4	3	5	15	10	15
Gil Vicente	11	4	3	4	12	15	15
Farense	12	4	2	6	7	18	14
Salgueiros	12	4	1	7	11	24	13
Alverca	12	3	2	7	15	24	11
Pacos Ferreira	12	2	5	5	10	23	11
Santa Clara	11	2	4	5	8	16	10
Varzim	11	2	3	6	10	22	9

NATIONAL SOCCER LEAGUE

After Round 8	TOTAL								HOME						AWAY					
	P	W	D	L	BYE	F	A	PTS	P	W	D	L	F	A	P	W	D	L	F	A
PERTH GLORY	7	7	0	0	1	20	4	21	3	3	0	0	6	1	4	4	0	0	14	3
NEWCASTLE UNITED	8	5	3	0	—	11	5	18	4	3	1	0	5	1	4	2	2	0	6	4
BRISBANE STRIKERS	7	4	2	1	1	12	7	14	3	1	1	1	4	4	4	3	1	0	8	3
OLYMPIC SHARKS	7	4	1	2	1	9	5	13	5	3	1	1	6	2	2	1	0	1	3	1
NORTHERN SPIRIT	8	3	3	2	—	8	10	12	4	1	1	2	2	6	4	2	2	0	8	4
PARRAMATTA POWER	8	3	2	3	—	9	10	11	5	3	0	2	7	6	3	0	2	1	2	4
MELBOURNE KNIGHTS	8	3	1	4	—	6	10	10	4	1	1	2	4	7	3	1	0	2	1	3
MARCONI STALLIONS	7	2	2	3	1	9	10	8	2	1	0	1	5	5	5	2	2	3	5	5
ADELAIDE CITY	7	1	4	2	1	9	8	7	4	1	3	0	8	5	3	0	1	2	1	3
KINGZ FC	7	1	2	4	1	10	20	5	2	0	1	1	2	7	5	0	1	4	8	13
WOLLONGONG WOLVES	8	1	2	5	—	6	14	5	4	1	0	3	2	5	4	0	0	4	3	10
SOUTH MELBOURNE	7	1	1	5	1	3	7	4	5	1	0	4	3	6	2	0	1	1	0	1
SYDNEY UNITED	7	1	1	5	1	5	10	4	3	0	1	2	3	6	4	2	0	2	2	2

ADELAIDE CITY FORCE 1
(Vidmar 76)
BRISBANE STRIKERS 1
(Carbone 60)

Venue: Hindmarsh Stadium. **Crowd:** 3,200. **Referee:** M. Breeze.
Cautions: Veart (AC) 30, Cestic (AC) 42, Fyfe (AC) 92.

Teams: ADELAIDE CITY: Cagalj, Kemp, Fyfe, Kovacevic, Cestic, Veart, Sabljak, Vidmar, Moreira, Tunbridge, Lewandowski.
BRISBANE STRIKERS: Kearton, Alagich, Stefanutto, McKain, McLaren, Grierson, Rech, Foster (Pilic 69), Trajanovski, Carbone (Heath 82), McQuilter.

MELBOURNE KNIGHTS 2
(Marth 90, Da Costa 91+)
FOOTBALL KINGZ 1
(Banks 80)

Venue: Knights Stadium. **Crowd:** 3,321. **Referee:** P. Mur.
Caution: Goutzioulis (FK) 82

Teams: MELBOURNE KNIGHTS: John, R. Vargas, Ognenovski, Marth, Vasilevski, Porter, Da Costa, Piorkowski, Kiratzoglou (Jolic 67), A. Vargas, Tricarico (Sulemani 46).
FOOTBALL KINGZ: Bannatyne, Osman, Van Steedan, Jackson, Perry, Atkinson, Ngata, Goutzioulis, Burton, Markovski (Banks 78), Urlovic (Eason 89).

PLAYER OF THE WEEK

Ante Juric: Back for Olympic with a bang, plus a goal.

SOUTH MELBOURNE 0
NEWCASTLE UNITED 1
(Masi 73)

Venue: Bob Jane Stadium. **Crowd:** 3,800 **Referee:** M. Shield.
Cautions: Bacak (SM) 9, Blagojevic (NU) 11, Petkovic (SM) 29, Bingley (NU) 50, Kisnorbo (SM) 84.

Teams: SOUTH MELBOURNE: Petkovic, Iosifidis, Durakovic, Liparoti (Bell 65), Panopoulos, Buljan, Bacak (Petrovic 77), Sekulovski (Santilli 83), Tolios, Murdocca, Kisnorbo.
NEWCASTLE UNITED: Beltrame, Roberts, Zoricich, Bingley (Tsekenis 81), Wilson, Griffiths, Baillie, Blagojevic, Schirripa (Dodd 66), Masi, Middleby.

NORTHERN SPIRIT 0
PERTH GLORY 2
(Maloney 11, Despotovski 44 pen)

Venue: North Sydney Oval. **Crowd:** 7,580. **Referee:** S.Micallef.
Cautions: A McDermott 17' (NS), C Foster 45' (NS), M Cartwright 62' (NS), P Cardozo 84' (NS), P Henderson 88' (NS)
Red cards: M Cartwright 79' (NS), A Cervinski 92'+ (NS)

Teams: NORTHERN SPIRIT: Henderson, Watts, Bell, Spencer, McDermott (Trajkovski 79), Foster, Cervinski, Cardozo, Hutchinson (Thomas 38), Cartwright, Enes (Griffiths 49).
PERTH GLORY: Petkovic, Horsley, Harnwell, Seans, Miller, Maloney, Despotovski, Garcia (Faria 82), Junior, Mori (Edwards 88), Pryce.

OLYMPIC SHARKS 2
(Juric 35, Carle 39 pen)
WOLLONGONG WOLVES 1
(Blake 37)

Venue: Toyota Park. **Crowd:** 4,932. **Referee:** C. Diomis.
Cautions: S Young 31' (WW), D Mennillo 69' (WW), Z Babic 71' (WW), L Wilson 94'+ (OS)

Teams: OLYMPIC SHARKS: Bolton, Kohler, Wilson, Pondeljak, North (Halpin 74), Carle, Harris (Owens 66), Packer, Durante, Spiteri (Macallister 81), Juric.
WOLLONGONG WOLVES: Anastasiadis, Ceccoli, Stanton, Cervinski, Reid (Srbinovski 71), Young (Babic 61), Anthopoulos, Huxley, Blake, Perinich, Mennillo.

PARRAMATTA POWER 1
(Roodenburg 72)
MARCONI STALLIONS 0

Venue: Parramatta Stadium. **Crowd:** 3,342. **Referee:** B. Hugo.
Cautions: G Last 35' (MS), B Renaud 44' (MS), D Longo 60' (MS), L Roodenburg 72' (PP)

Teams: PARRAMATTA POWER: Pogliacomi, Barrett, Langdon (Fitzsimmons 59), Orlic, O'Sullivan, Arambasic, Lapsansky, Martin (Roodenburg 67), Buonovoglia (Vrkic 78), Elrich, Eagleton.
MARCONI STALLIONS: Turnbull, Beauchamp, Costanzo, Longo, Renaud (Anabalon 57), Last, Gulessarian (Care 57), Maisano (Radulovic 73), Tome, Webb, Afkos.

ROUND 9

FRIDAY NOVEMBER 30
Kingz FC vs Northern Spirit

SATURDAY DECEMBER 1
Perth Glory vs Parramatta Power
Marconi Stallions vs Newcastle United
Brisbane Strikers vs Olympic Sharks

SUNDAY DECEMBER 2
Sydney United vs Melbourne Knights
South Melbourne vs Adelaide City Force
Wollongong Wolves v bye

BYE — SYDNEY UNITED